

HISTORICAL
Centennial
PROGRAM

***"FROM RAPIDS
TO ROCKETS"***

**ROCK FALLS, ILLINOIS
JULY 30—AUGUST 5, 1967**

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HOME LOANS



Left to Right - C.L. Morgan, Jude Turner, Marian Nicol, Rhonda Buckner, Barbara Buckner and R.H. Pettit

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1967

Guests, Friends and Fellow Residents of Rock Falls:

The City of Rock Falls is Commemorating its Centennial. During this auspicious occasion and in the midst of our gala celebration, we pause to appreciate our heritage, give thanks for our progress and achievements as well as gratefully acknowledge the contribution of many persons and organizations to the Success Story of our City over the past Century.

We take from the past a firm foundation on which we will build a bigger and better Rock Falls in the future for all those who follow us. This is our duty and responsibility. We accept it humbly and confidently.

To all of you we extend a sincere and hearty welcome to our City now and in the future. Let us all participate and enjoy ourselves thru out Centennial Week - July 29 - August 5, and resolve to work together for our City and Community in the future.

On behalf of all of us, I wish to take this opportunity to express our thanks to everyone who has worked diligently to make our Centennial an enjoyable and memorable one.

Sincerely,

Louis J. Pignatelli
Louis J. Pignatelli,
Mayor, Rock Falls, Illinois

LJP:lz

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THROUGH THE YEARS IN ROCK FALLS HISTORY

- 1867 A.P. Smith purchases site of Rock Falls.
- 1868 Post Office is established. Methodist Church is organized. Galt and Tracy start machine shop.
- 1869 Rock Falls is incorporated as a village. Smith & Smith flouring mill is built; also the mitten factory. E.G.W. Parks paper mill is built.
- 1870 Population 471. R.H. & R.H. Sheldon, Jr. erect implement house. Keystone Mfg. Co. is organized.
- 1871 Eureka Mfg. Co. is org nized. The railroad comes to Rock Falls.
- 1872 Industrial Building is built at a cost of \$50,000. Globe Mills begin operations.
- 1873 H.F. Batcheller establishes Enterprise Works.
- 1874 First bank is organized in October. Keystone Burial Case Co. is established. White Swan Ferry starts operating between Rock Falls and Sterling.
- 1875 The Congregational Church is organized.
- 1876 Pippert Meat Market begins business.
- 1877 The Immanuel Lutheran Church is organized. Truman Culver opens a shoe store.
- 1878 The free bridge over Rock River is built.
- 1879 Northwestern Barbed Wire Co. is organized.
- 1880 Population 894. First high school class of 6 graduates. Big distillery fire; 1200 steers burned.
- 1881 A.C. Stanley buys Newton's Grocery Store.
- 1882 The Rock Falls News is established.
- 1883 The CB&Q railroad bridge is built over Rock River. I.O.O.F. Cemetery is established.
- 1884 Batcheller Enterprise Works has a bad fire. The Creamery Package Company manufactures over 400,000 butter tubs.
- 1885 Geo. W. Packer purchases the E.F. Brock Co., manufacturers of the Yankee hand sled, butter tub machinery and blacksmith punches.
- 1887 First Building and Loan Ass'n. is begun. Rock River on rampage.
- 1888 CB&Q covered bridge burns. Stone Building of Merrill School is built.
- 1889 Old schoolhouse is purchased for City Hall. Village becomes a city.
- 1890 Population 1900.
- 1891 Paper Mill explosion, 4 men killed. The Stanley house is built.
- 1892 Bob sleds on sale at H.F. Batcheller & Sons - \$10.00. 2 pound can of salmon - 15¢, picnic hams - 8¢ a pound, granulated sugar, 23 lbs. for \$1.00.
- 1893 Grubb's Restaurant advertises 6 meals for \$1.00. 320 acres of land for sale for \$50.00 an acre.
- 1894 Telephone line installed between Rock Falls and Tampico.
- 1895 First electric light plant begun. Public schools closed on account of diphtheria.
- 1896 A.J. McNeil Hardware Store and the Rock Falls News burn on January 3.
- 1897 First Christian Church is organized.
- 1898 Spanish American War begins; local boys mustered into army on May 11. Browning Club is organized at the home of Mrs. A.J. McNeil.
- 1899 The Frank Building is built. Street names are changed. There is a city curfew; everyone under 16 must be home by 8:00 p.m.
- 1900 Population 2176. Culver block is built by Hardesty.
- 1901 City holds special program in memory of assassinated President Grover McKinley. Start using steam scrapers in building of canal.
- 1902 Johnston Lumber Co. begins business here. Corn is 51¢ a bushel, wheat 65¢ and oats 39¢.
- 1903 City discovers case of small pox.
- 1904 Keystone Co. begins manufacture of trucks. Avenue G bridge is built.
- 1905 Sowles and Rubins begin businesses here. Seventh Day Adventist Church is organized. Kelley and Beales conduct Saturday night dances in Frank's Hall.
- 1906 Avenue G bridges go out in ice jam. International Harvester has a \$25,000 warehouse fire. An automobile is developed at the Keystone works of the International Harvester.
- 1907 Feeder Canal opens on October 24. The RB&W purchases Cobb and Drew.
- 1908 Local option for saloons. Coloma votes 373 "yes" and 381 "no." Bridge over Howland Creek is built.
- 1910 Population 2657. First Corn Carnival. Sam Frank begins selling Fords. Daniels begin business.
- 1911 Kelley triplets are born. Daggett's Drug Store begins. Rock Falls Woman's Club is organized.
- 1913 Wheelocks begin business here. Rock River Country Club is organized. Large electric Rock Falls sign, just east of First Avenue Bridge is erected by Rock Falls Woman's Club. J.H. Rhyme comes to Rock Falls via canal on houseboat.
- 1914 Because of scarcity of wheat, bread very likely to go up to 6¢ a loaf. Many cattle are being killed because of hoof and mouth disease. City of Rock Falls adopts commission form of government.
- 1916 Our boys go to the war to end all wars.
- 1917 Sam Frank selling Ford touring cars for \$360.00. Butter is 41¢, eggs 42¢ and E.G. Kelsey complains that leather is 75¢ a pound.
- 1918 November 11, Armistice is declared.
- 1919 There is rationing of coal due to shipping difficulties. Paper mill warehouse at Fifth Avenue and West Second Street burns.
- 1920 Population 2927. Geyers barn and factory on Second Avenue burns. Mechling Barge Line begins business on feeder canal.
- 1921 Girardi Building is built.
- 1922 January 22, the Methodist Church is a total loss by fire. First Rock Falls National Bank closes its doors June 5.
- 1923 Present First Avenue Bridge is built. W.J. McCarthy opens feed business at 103 Dixon Avenue.
- 1925 Hill Electric Company begins business.
- 1927 Election to annex Rock Falls to Sterling - defeated.
- 1928 Lawrence Park is dedicated. RB&W erects \$150,000 addition. Mott Co. and Vavra Paper Box Co. begin operations.
- 1930 Population 3893. Parrish-Alford Co. is purchased by Northwestern Steel and Wire and moved to Rock Falls.
- 1931 Frank Seward Grocery and Filling Station begins business.
- 1932 Rock Falls Dairy begins business.
- 1934 Christian Church has bad fire on February 5.
- 1935 Corn Carnival is revived.
- 1936 First sewage treatment plant is begun.
- 1938 New Rock Falls Post Office is opened.
- 1939 Humphrey Agency begins business.
- 1940 Population 4987.
- 1941 December 7, Pearl Harbor is bombed.
- 1945 New Rock Falls Bank opens, November 25.
- 1947 International Harvester has \$150,000 fire.
- 1948 The new Avenue G bridges are built.
- 1949 Thome School addition is built. Rock Falls Assembly of God Church is organized.
- 1950 Population 7983. (Note the over 3000 gain in population in last decade.) Wheelocks Furniture Store and the Christian Church are destroyed by fire. St. Andrews Church is organized.
- 1951 First Southern Baptist Church is organized in Trager Hall.
- 1952 Illinois Forge Co. is organized. Glenna Pohly becomes "Miss Illinois."
- 1955 Population 10,208. (Note the over 2200 gain in population in only 5 years.) Community Presbyterian Church is organized.
- 1956 Larson Co. moves to Rock Falls and begins production November 1.
- 1957 Geyer Manufacturing Co. is sold to Wood, Shovel and Tool. First Church of the Nazarene is organized. Congregational Church occupies new sanctuary.
- 1958 Basketball team of Rock Falls High School wins second place in State Basketball Tournament.
- 1959 New band shelter is built in Veterans Memorial Park. Maranatha Baptist Church is organized.
- 1960 Population 10,261. New Rock Falls Bank Building is built.
- 1961 International Harvester Co. leaves Rock Falls.
- 1962 First scheduled flight by Ozark Airlines to Whiteside County Airport.
- 1963 East 11th Street bridge over canal is built to new Industrial Park.
- 1964 New Civic Center is built.
- 1965 New Dixon Avenue bridge is built. Wood, Shovel and Tool Co. closes its doors. Community-Youth Building is built. Videocraft Co. moves into part of Old International Building.
- 1966 Rock Falls is 100 years old. Lawrence Brothers build new shipping facility near Rock Falls.
- 1967

PREFACE

SPANNING A CENTURY

FROM RAPIDS TO ROCKETS

In this day of rockets and space travel we are taking time in this year of Our Lord, 1967, to look backward in time to the beginnings of our community and city known as Rock Falls. Our city lies on the south bank of beautiful Rock River at a site, which before the dams were built, had many rapids. We have seen many changes through the years and yet, essentially we are the same. The river's rapids are still there, though covered by several feet of water--yet still living; our forebears are still here; though buried in mother earth, they still live on in history and memory and through their descendants.

In this book, we hope to take you back into time. Yet never forgetting that we must still live in the present and look to the future. A city that stands still, dies. We must, even while enjoying the past, prepare for a future of growth and progress. It is only through good schools, more business and industry and unselfish devotion and loyalty to our community that we can hope to progress to a better future for "our town" ROCK FALLS, ILLINOIS U.S.A.

INTRODUCTION

It is with a great deal of appreciation that the compiler of this booklet acknowledges the historians of the past and the help of many people in the present.

As this is a souvenir booklet, we could not hope to cover and include all the historical events, to our present time. Nor could we possibly name all the individuals who have contributed to the history of our community. If there are inaccuracies, we regret them, but historians and other "old timers" do not always agree.

We owe thanks to all the individuals who have done research on the various facts of our booklet. Especially, do we acknowledge the help and cooperation of the Sterling-Rock Falls Historical Society.

We have endeavored to compile this booklet to the best of our ability and with impartiality. As E. Seearles said, quoted from the City Directory of 1877, "should any feel disposed to criticize the imperfections and errors which in a work of this kind, must necessarily occur owing to the imperfections of human understanding, the writer would only reply to such critic, by reminding him that nothing is so easy and so natural as to criticize what one has not the ability (and we might add time) to improve". Instead of ten years, we have had 100 years of history to research.

The following are a list of books from which we obtained most of the early history: "History of Whiteside County" by Bent-Wilson published in 1877; "Biennial Directory of Sterling and Rock Falls" published by A.J. Booth and Co. in 1877-78; "Holland's Sterling and Rock Falls Directory" published in 1875; "History of Whiteside County" edited by W.W. Davis in 1908; "Portrait and Biographical Album" by Chapman Brothers in 1885; 1877 and 1912 Atlas; plus several personal scrapbooks and old newspaper files, which we have used as background material.

-LaVerne D. Montgomery

"RAPIDS TO ROCKETS"

Rivers carrying boats, Indian trails guiding wagons, cabins from logs and food from wildlife... that was the beginning of Rock Falls, with its modern marinas for water sportsmen, its highways and paved streets, duplex houses, motels and prefabricated buildings, steel structured factories and businesses, offering all that's needed to be comfortable. The cautious, uneducated pioneer has progressed to the fast moving pace of a factory engineer or business employee educated in our school system and often given an opportunity for further education through local organizations that have developed along with the city.

It is doubtful that on May 8, 1832, when Blackhawk and his warriors followed paths that are now our paved streets, he or anyone else could imagine where those roads would someday lead. The trail they followed goes from our present day Prophetstown Road, straight to 11th Avenue, right-angled to 5th Street, across to 8th Avenue and the present Lutheran Church, north toward the river and 2nd Street, and finally to Dixon Avenue which led to the Dixon Ferry via the Rock Island Road. 1,900 United States troops camped in our area

while in pursuit of Blackhawk. Among them were Jefferson Davis, Zachary Taylor, and Samuel Whiteside. Abraham Lincoln, 23, came from New Salem to lead a company of volunteers against Blackhawk.

On January 16, 1836, Whiteside County was formed, named in honor of General Samuel Whiteside, the same officer who fought in the Indian wars from 1812 to the end of the Blackhawk War. It was his troops that left Prophetstown in flames in 1832.

In 1837 Isaac Merrill, our first permanent citizen, settled here in Coloma Township. He was joined in a few weeks by Edward Atkins, and in the fall, by Noah Merrill and Daniel Brooks. Noah settled on the south side of the river opposite Eagle Island, the fourth island down from our present dam. His cabin was completed and prairie broke by 1838. Brooks built his one room cabin in the fall of 1837 in what is now the first ward of Rock Falls. Brooks and Noah Merrill had married sisters, so in the winter of 1837 and 1838, the two families consisting of 11 people lived in Brooks' one room cabin. They had one bed and the floor as sleeping quarters. Noah's son, Nelson B. Merrill, was born November 6, 1838 and is believed to be the first white child born in Coloma Township.

The first hotel in the area was started by Edward Atkins. It stood in the center of First Avenue, facing the river.

Atkins, along with A.B. Wheeler, Isaac Merrill and Daniel Brooks, laid out the town of Rapids City. It was a mile square, occupying the tract where Rock Falls now stands.

Eight other gentlemen had moved to Coloma Township by February of 1839. They were Ira Sillaman, Zurah Chapman, W.W. Durant, Samuel B. Cushing, John J. Cushing, Frank Cushing, Herman Emmons and L.H. Woodworth. Durant opened a small store, the first in this vicinity.

At this time the state decided to embark upon an extensive internal improvement system. Rapids City was to have a canal which would facilitate navigation up the river. The contract for the canal was let to Ethan Nichols in 1839. He died in the same year, so the contract fell in the hands of his brother and Sanger and Galbreath. L.H. Woodworth became engineer in charge, his profession before coming west.

The construction of the canal drew new settlers to Rapid City. The businesses grew and the town was prosperous. Sanger and Nichols opened a large store just west of the Industrial Building. A large workmen's shack was built to house the workers. It was located on the land to be later occupied by the home of A.P. Smith. The shack could house two families and contained a large stone fireplace. Later it was used to house families who were building cabins.

The canal had progressed about half a mile between Avenues A and D, \$40,000 having been spent already, when the sudden happiness of Rapids City turned just as quickly to despair. Financial panic hit the country and work on the canal ceased as did the town. Settlers picked up and left to find a living. The workmen scattered in the directions from which they came. The town was a ghost that only echoed the fallen dreams of its settlers. The Atkins' house stood like a lone sentinel. Durant's store, the workmen's shack, L.H. Woodworth's cabin and Daniel Brooks cabin were left to carry on.

Edward Atkins sold his interests in the town which included a valuable interest in the waterfront to James E. Cooley of New York. During the same winter a tribe of about 30 Winnebago Indians camped in the vicinity, leaving in the spring of 1844 never to return again.

Cooley persuaded his brother-in-law, Richard Arey, to take over the hotel. He arrived with his wife and five children on May 11, 1844. Atkins and his family moved to a smaller house. Dan Batcheller and John Enderton were the only new settlers during 1844. New businesses were nil on the south side of the river. All supplies had to be bought in Sterling and brought across the river by boat or fording the river. In the winter, they were carried across the ice.

The roads at the time were still glorified Indian trails, the main one being from Dixon's Ferry to Prophetstown, used mostly by immigrants going west. The "lone tree" existed in a timber at Fair Point, a bend in the river. It was a honey locust tree of gigantic proportions which could be seen for miles around on a clear day. Travelers fancied it as a schooner at sea. It was a guidepost for many travelers until 1860, when a tornado whipped and twisted it to the ground.

Up until this time not much had been done about organizing the town. The settlers were occupied with making a living. But in 1849 an election was held in the county to allow the people to vote for or

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against township organization. The vote passed and the county was laid out in townships, ours being Rapids with Montmorency attached for the time being. Hume was known as Jackson.

The division, names and boundaries of the townships were decided by L.D. Crandell, L.H. Woodworth and William Pollock under the new township organization law adopted at the election of November 4, 1851. On February 24, 1852, the township of Rapids was changed to Coloma with Montmorency remaining a part of Coloma until 1859.

Richard Arey's hotel was used as the meeting place for the first town meeting, Tuesday, April 6, 1852. Arey was named chairman and L.H. Woodworth was named moderator. Arey was also named clerk and supervisor; A.W. Worthington, town clerk; L.H. Woodworth, assessor; A.F.R. Emmons, collector; Frank Cushing and Samuel Emmons, justices of the peace; and Sydney Barber, overseer of highways. The same meeting also passed a resolution that on the final day of May, it would be illegal to allow swine to run at large within the township. The fine was set at \$1.00 per head on any loose hogs, shoats or pigs. It was to be paid along with any damage done by the animals, by the owner. The decision was also made to assess town property \$5.00 to defray the incidental expenses of the town. L.W. Cook was named overseer of the poor, L.L. Emmons, John Mason and Isaac Sturtevant as commissioners of highways, and A.F.R. Emmons, constable.

These were the beginnings of an organized town. The laws passed were suited to their needs. Foresight could be seen in the appointment of an individual to tend to the poor, and in having 4 men to take care of so few roads. Their minds were with the future, as were the others mentioned in the original minute book (still in existence) such as J.C. Sturtevant, Herman Bassett, Henry Aument, J.G. Wood, JohnENDERSON, Charles King, Newton Sturtevant, Joseph Golder and John D. Arey, (son of Richard). As the council and their ideas grew, the meeting place was changed in 1856 to the schoolhouse, District 4, on Dixon Road.

The river was the backbone to our township and interests were always centered around it. In 1855, the first power dam was built by Sterling interests, and a year later the residents of Coloma built a bridge by subscription, only to have it washed away by the spring torrents before it was ever used.

In 1858 the township was still small, with only 31 houses and two schoolhouses. In the 1862 election, only 22 votes were polled. In an 1865 vote, as to whether a tax should be raised for paying bounties to Civil War volunteers, only 29 votes were cast, 24 yeas and 5 nays, but the scene was soon to change.

Rock Falls

In 1867, A. P. Smith bought 65 acres of land on the south side of the river, including that area occupied by the old workmen's shack. He hired John Arey to survey and lay out the town of Rock Falls. The plat of land was then recorded on January 28, 1868, at the county seat. This was the beginning of the Rock Falls we know as our town. The first child born in our village was Lenoreta Barker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Barker. Gideon Reynolds and Mary Arey were the first to be wedded in 1867, and B.C. Hunt was the first to pass away, in 1868.

We were a new town, with little organization. The people were few, but they were eager and ready to incorporate themselves into a village of their own. They held their first town meeting on January 26, 1869, after a public notice made by Truman Culver and John Arey was given to all. Unsurprisingly, the vote was unanimous, and we were on our way to becoming a real town. The votes that made the decision were cast by Truman Culver, J.L. Morrell, H. Hendricks, J. Smith, J.L. Backus, E.M. Day, C. Smith, W.E. Robins, W.L. Smith, W.W. Brown, Richard Arey, C.K. Brown, H.P. Price, J.A. Bickford and F.E. Palmer. William L. Smith was our first elected president and H.P. Price our clerk.

The following month, February 4, another election was held in Culver's store. It was decided that we needed 5 trustees to represent our town. 48 votes were cast which elected W.L. Smith, Wm. H. Shephard, Eli Geiger, Henry P. Price and J.A. Bickford. Geiger was also named treasurer, Charles H. Wellman was appointed constable, J.A. Patterson as supervisor, and John Arey as surveyor. William Smith was also named street commissioner, and Eli Eckman, pound master. On the 26th of the month, the newly elected Board of Trustees directed the clerk to order a seal for our town with the following inscription in the center, "Fundo in Tempore".

Prohibiting the sale of malt liquors in quantities of less than a gallon was the first town ordinance, also passed at this meeting. They decided no licenses for saloons should be granted, which started a long debate and created the first split in political ideas as to whether a 'license' or 'no-license' party was to be elected and gain control of the town. The license party won three elections and the no-license party won five. In the meantime the population grew from 471 in 1870 to over a 1,000 in 1877. . . . and the town kept growing. New tracts of land were purchased for new businesses. On January 19, 1889, a committee consisting of W.H. Kadel, S.M. Mingle, and J.V. McCarty reported they had purchased the old West School building at a cost of \$205 (which was used as the City Hall until 1965) and lot #1 in Block 7 for \$500.00.

As the population and land grew, so did the desires of the people of Rock Falls to incorporate their town into a city. This desire led to an election on April 16, 1889 to decide. 83 votes were cast for and 3 against the idea. We were now a city, a startling difference from the small settlement of 1837. The first city election was held on June 18 and Egbert Wilson was elected mayor. Our new city decided to have an alderman-type of government. The 1890's brought a changing people and a changing government. In October, 1899, the names of the streets were changed, under the instruction of those appointed by Mayor R.H. Woods.

1919 brought another change in the type of government. We decided to try the commission form, which lasted until 1923, when we returned to the alderman form.

Things were quiet for awhile until 1927, when a heated battle broke out. Some of the citizens wished to annex the city of Rock Falls to Sterling. Others were hotly against it. Those who wanted to join Sterling used issues such as the absence of a hospital in Rock Falls, as well as a library, telephone exchange, gas company, water company and business organizations. They also felt we needed better fire protection than we had. Sterling sided in with this group, of course, and offered to build a new Soldiers Memorial Hall as a civic center for both cities. They were even going to build it on our side of the river. But, the opposing group was too large and too strong in their desire to keep what they had built. They didn't want to lose the electric plant, and fear of higher taxes even boosted their anti-annexation drives. More than anything, they didn't want to lose their identity as a city. They had grown from little of nothing to a city, perhaps not as efficiently organized or equipped as Sterling, but potentially as powerful as the north side of the river. "Why should we sell out for a few conveniences when, in a few years, we can establish those things for ourselves?" The battle was bitter and long and used advertisements, press and letters to prove each side's point, but in the election on November 22, 1927, the vote was 512 for and 1180 against annexation. The inefficient city of Rock Falls decided to struggle by on their own.

So on our own we grew from 2,927 population in 1920 to 3,893 in 1930 and still another 1,000 in the next decade. The town turned toward improvements necessary to house its growing population. Between 1940 and 1950, another 3,000 people moved to Rock Falls. New homes sprang up south of Route 30. Subdivisions were laid out and unsafe housing was improved or destroyed to help house our new citizens. In July of 1952, the city council voted to purchase property on 8th avenue from the Business Men's Association in the amount of \$6,500, payable in 3 years. The property was used as the site for the Armory. A new municipal center was built in 1963 and the schoolhouse that had served us for 75 years as a city hall, was torn down in 1965 at a cost of \$1,790, (the building had cost only \$205).

We still may not have everything that a city of our size needs, but we're not through growing either. New stores and businesses are coming in all the time, and the old ones are remodeling and improving to keep up. The city of Rock Falls is 100 years young, and still growing, still pioneering on modern highways that follow Indian paths, and flying in planes over the rapids that brought our first settlers to Rock Falls.

ROMANCE OF THE AREY HOUSE

The old Arey house that once stood in the middle of First Avenue faced north and was back about 100 feet from the bank of the Rock River. It was built by Edward Atkins in 1838 as the first hotel. The building was of local oak, butternut, black walnut, cherry and basswood, the only pine being on the inside doors and window sashes. The pine was brought by team from Chicago. The crown moulding

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was made by hand. The rooms on the ground floor were large kitchen, dining room, bar room and ladies parlor. Both parlor and bar were on the west side of the hall. Between these two rooms, the partition had an opening about four feet square which held the long wood stove. The stove pipe went up on the bar room side, heating both rooms with one stove. The finishing lumber in the house was black walnut and the floors were white oak.

Richard Arey, wife and five children, came from Wellfleet, Mass. on Cape Cod, arriving in Rapids City, May 11, 1844. Their trip took a month from Albany, N. Y. to Buffalo and around the lakes to Chicago, and here by team and wagon. Atkins and his family moved to a smaller house to allow the Arey family to live in the hotel. Arey planted trees around the hotel, as well as an orchard in the 160 acres to the south.

Pioneering had weakened the Arey family who were used to the city life of the east. Eight years after the Arey's moved here, Mrs. Arey passed away. She had given birth to 3 children while living in this house, and her absence made it unbearable for the rest of the members to remain there. Nevertheless, Arey carried on and held the first town meeting in the hotel, where he was elected both chairman and clerk.

In 1858, the hotel was moved to where the Sand K Clothing Store now sits. Arey remodeled the house and turned it into a 'duplex', renting out the west side, and living in the east side until 1888 when Thomas Galt bought it. He moved it to a site in back of the Methodist Church, where it remained until 1928, when it was torn down.

The Arey house played a very important part in the history of our area. All the elections were held there until the school was built on Dixon Road in 1855. The missionary workers gathered here, as the house was used as a Bible repository and Sunday school. Arey was known as the 'Deacon' until the time he died at the age of 88.



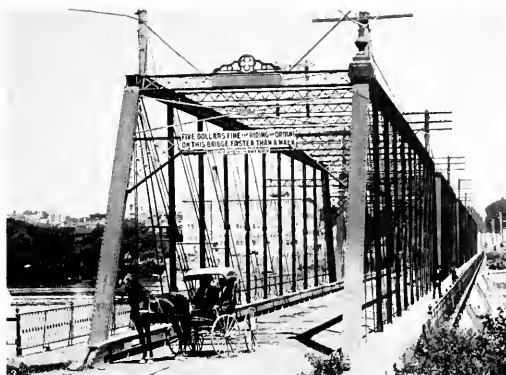
Old Deacon Arey Home, 1st home in Rock Falls

BRIDGES

As the early settlers scanned the horizon and looked across the Rock River, dread and anticipation must have been etched in each mind as they wondered what was on the other shore. In the early days of our community, transportation across the river presented many problems. Until 1856, the only way to get across the river was by fording, the best fording spot apparently being the foot of 8th Avenue in Sterling, to just this side of the Government Dam in Rock Falls. In the winter they crossed on the ice.

In 1856, a bridge was built by subscription, crossed from the foot of Avenue B in Sterling, to the tip of Lawrence Park, then known as Picnic Island and then to the south bank of the river at about 5th Avenue in Rock Falls. This bridge was short lived, as a great ice gorge in 1857 swept it away.

A rope ferry was started from Avenue B in Sterling, below the lower dam and was completed in 1853 and operated until the Toll



1st Ave. Bridge

Bridge opened in 1863. The toll was 10¢ and the bridge tender's name was Robert Fulton. A boat was built and used as a ferry for awhile, operating about 200 feet east of this present bridge.

In the meantime, another ferry was attempted at Broadway, using a complicated system of little boats stationed at 200 foot intervals to support a thousand foot cable anchored in midstream and attached to the ferry to be swung across the river by the current. It was not a success and ran only one season.

In 1874, George Barr bought a steam tug at Lyons, Iowa and transformed it into a ferry which became locally famous as the White Swan. The Swan did a good passenger service until the first bridge was constructed on First Avenue, First Avenue being known as Bridge Street on old city maps. This bridge, built in 1878, was a free bridge. It was a six-span bridge, each span 170 feet, with the iron superstructure 20 feet above the bed of the river. It had a road bed 18 feet wide and a 5 foot walk on each side. This bridge served until 1923, when it was replaced by a brick sided bridge. This bridge is still used, except the brick sides have been replaced with new iron rails and new lights.



Ave. G Bridge Collapse

The Avenue G to 12th Avenue, in Rock Falls bridges, had their disasters, too. The first one was barely completed and ready for travel when it was swept away by a tremendous ice gorge in 1906. By December of 1907, the second Avenue G bridge was completed, Sterling and the county sharing equally the \$41,500 cost. The total length was 1200 feet, built in two parts, covering channels on each side of the island. The south side was a truss bridge, a 300-foot span. The north part consisted of nine 100-foot spans and was a plate-girder structure, roadway 24 feet wide, the floor 20 feet above the normal surface of the water. The plate girders were 10 feet deep (or high), the bridge floor constructed of wooden bricks laid on the girder bed. Everyone thought the bridge looked firm enough to stand for all time, but some forty years later, a span fell in the river and the bridge was condemned. The present bridges were built in 1948 and were paid for by the state.

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The C.B. & Q. railroad bridge, built in 1883, was a covered bridge which burned spectacularly just five years later in 1888. On the night of October 23, before midnight, almost the entire population viewed the great conflagration leaping along the arches, till the whole structure was a blazing mass, 1200 feet of flame, from shore to shore. The piers remained intact and the following year, another frame superstructure was erected but not covered. The bridge was used thus, until the late 1920's when another fire engulfed the bridge burning out the center section. The old frame superstructure was then removed and the bridge rebuilt, using the same piers, and is as we see it today.

The building of the canal in 1906 and 1907 necessitated the building of a lot of bridges in the area through which it ran. The only original bridge within the confines of Coloma township is the one on east second street in Rock Falls. This bridge was never as high as the other bridges as it was not intended for large boats to go under it, as once in the river, the water depth would not be sufficient for them to navigate very far.

A big event in this area occurred on October 24, 1907, when the new feeder canal was opened to traffic. A huge crowd estimated at 25,000 people, gathered to watch a huge street parade in the morning and an aquatic parade for the opening of the canal in the afternoon.

The Dixon Avenue Bridge, which was a landmark from the building of the canal, was replaced in 1965 with the City of Rock Falls, Coloma Township, Whiteside County and the State of Illinois, all sharing in the expense of the new bridge. The roadbed was widened, straightened and lowered. With the much heavier traffic of today, it is a much safer structure.

A completely new bridge has been built across the canal at East 11th Street, which leads to the Industrial Park. This bridge was constructed in 1963 and will help lead Rock Falls into the future. This bridge was built with funds shared jointly by the township and the county.

The old high bridge on Route 88, which was of "S" design and was the scene of many auto accidents due to its sharp curves, has been replaced with a new wide structure. One too many trucks struck the bridge in 1965 and it was damaged beyond repair. The new bridge is built for today's modern high speed traffic, which is getting heavier as it leads to the Whiteside County Airport.



C.B. & Q. Bridge



Dixon Avenue Bridge

THE ICE GORGE OF 1906

Ol' Rock River has always caused trouble, as it drains a large part of Wisconsin and almost all of Northern Illinois. Frequent ice gorges and times of high water are familiar to all who live in the Rock River Valley.

One of the greatest ice gorges to occur on the river was in February of 1906. It was caused by the ice jamming between Portland and the Sterling-Rock Falls area. It reached its peak on February 23, when another smaller jam near Dixon broke, sending a fresh rush of water down the river.

The river began rising rapidly shortly after midnight. Warnings were sent to residents living on low ground and to all the manufacturers who had plants along the river. But the rushing waters, rising with a startling swiftness, could not be held back and little could be done, except to flee before its power. Many residents who lived in Sterling, were forced to flee in their nightclothes. Rock Falls residents were more fortunate, as it is located on higher ground.

Ice, which had been piling up in the river, and especially above the Avenue G bridge, had now the pressure of a mighty rush of water behind it and at 7:15 A.M., the three south spans of the river were washed away and very shortly thereafter, the north end of the bridge was washed away. In the matter of a few short minutes, one of the strongest bridges on the Rock River, which had taken months to build, was destroyed by the immense power of the river.

Over 1000 men in the Rock Falls-Sterling area were thrown out of work, due to the damage to the factories. The electric light and gas plants, too, were temporarily disabled and the cities were plunged into darkness for several nights. First Avenue Bridge was condemned and a warning was posted telling people they crossed the bridge at their own risk.

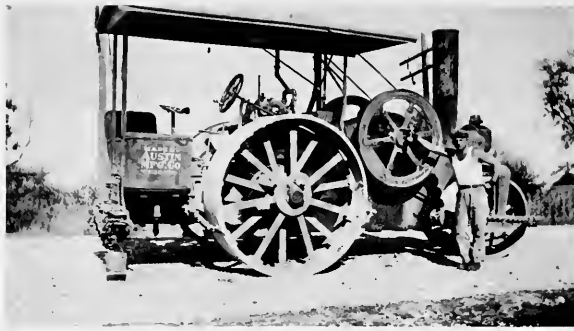
Huge windrows of ice cakes were piled high along the banks of the river by the water. These took many weeks to thaw.



Ice Gorge of 1906

HENNEPIN CANAL FEEDER

A big event, which drew one of the largest crowds ever to gather in Rock Falls, occurred on October 24, 1907, when the feeder canal was opened to traffic. The project had been in the planning stage for many years. In fact, the preliminary surveys were made as early as 1871. In 1890, Congress made an appropriation of \$500,000 to begin work on the Hennepin Canal, which was to extend from Hennepin to Milan, on the Mississippi. This section of the canal was dedicated in 1895. There were times when the water level in the canal was insufficient and it was decided to build a feeder from the Rock



V. H. Lawrence, Operator, Dixon Ave Road in 1934

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A. Lawrence, Operator in 1955

River to the canal in Bureau County. At first, the engineers decided to tap the Rock River at Dixon, but interested parties in Rock Falls and Sterling felt it should be from our locality. C.C. Johnson, minority leader of the legislature and C.L. Sheldon, made a trip to Washington and discussed the matter with the Hon. Redfield Potter, Secretary of War. He told them that if they could prove tapping the river at Rock Falls was more economical than it would be at Dixon, the government would listen.

After Mr. Johnson and Mr. Sheldon returned, they met with prominent citizens of both Rock Falls and Sterling and they decided to hire Frank E. Andrews, a lawyer and surveyor, to make a survey. His survey showed it would be 11 miles shorter and much less expensive to build the canal from Rock Falls than from Dixon. Government engineers were sent in to check the surveyors' figures and the point was proved.

In 1898, construction was begun on the feeder. A dam had to be built across Rock River in order to raise the water and to insure a proper flow into the canal through the feeder. The length of the Government dam across the river is 1300 feet and it raised the water 11 feet 6 inches above its common level. The overflow resulted in backing water up as far as Dixon and inundated 1,436 acres of land. Many small islands were inundated, but many still remain. The new shoreline created many choice building locations and beautiful homes line the river bank on both the south and north shores.

The length of the feeder is 29.3 miles and the Hennepin Canal is 75 miles in length. The cost of the canal and feeder was between \$8,000,000 and \$10,000,000 and the cost of the dam was \$100,000.

The opening day celebration drew a crowd estimated at 25,000 on a beautiful October day. A huge street parade, 2-1/2 miles in length, took place in the morning and in the afternoon an aquatic parade of boats and launches from Rock Falls, Sterling and Dixon started on the river and entered the locks, going as far as the Dixon Avenue Bridge and returning.

Among the speakers for the day were the Governor, Charles S. Deneen, former governor Samuel R. Van Sant, Congressman Frank O. Lowden and many others. Miss Grace Wheeler, now Mrs. Wm. Clingan of Sterling, the daughter of Captain L.L. Wheeler, the chief engineer for the project, had the privilege of opening the gates for the first time.

The only lock on the feeder is the one at Rock River. For many years, there was a large grain elevator at Mile Nine, where many area farmers took their grain to be shipped. The tonnage of commercial freight hauled on the canal consisted of grain, gravel, coal, steel and iron.

Unfortunately, the usefulness of the canal was shortlived. With the advent of better highways and large trucks, the canal fell into disuse. At present, the United States Government is trying to rehabilitate the property and it will eventually be turned over to the State of Illinois for recreational purposes. The many miles of canal bank could become one large park and wildlife refuge for the use of the citizens of the state. We hope it will again become a useful part of our community.

Captain Wheeler was the superintendent in charge of the canal for many years. However, he always lived in Sterling and never in the big cement block government house.

In 1914, Mr. Wheeler made it possible for J.A. Rhyne to transfer from lock #2 at Bureau. He came to Rock Falls so he might better educate his family. The family came by houseboat to Rock Falls, making the trip of 29 miles in 5 days. Charles Randall then lived in the Government House and a man by the name of Sturtevant lived in the small lock house across the canal. The Rhyne's bought a house at 804 East 2nd Street, which Mr. Rhyne's daughter still occupies. Mr. Rhyne was a lock tender, who had helped build the canal. While working at Bureau, they lived in a houseboat until a new house was built for them. Shortly after moving into the new house, a daughter, Alice, was born and was the first child born on canal property.

The Joseph Sumption family also lived in the small lock tender house before moving to the big Government House. Mr. Sumption was succeeded by Virgil Beckley and Calvin Elliot is now lock tender and care taker. He has been here since 1952.

At least one large business had its beginning as a result of the canal. In 1920, LeRoy Meechling and Fred Wolf of Rock Falls, began a barge line. They built their own steam boat, using a steam engine which they got from Paul Dillon, to push their barges. They bought

gravel from a government pit east of Sheffield for 10¢ a yard, then hauled it to buyers all along the Hennepin Canal and feeder. They also hauled coal and steel for the International Harvester Co.

Mr. Wolf sold his interest to Mr. Meechling about 1925. In 1930, Mr. Meechling extended the barge operations to include grain hauling from the various elevators along the canal, taking it to the grain terminals in Pekin.

The company, now known as the A.L. Meechling Barge Line, has expanded its operations, until today it has a large fleet of towboats and barges operating on all major rivers and the Gulf of Mexico. In 1961, they transported the first Saturn Missile from Huntsville, Alabama to Cape Canaveral. Since then, they have transported many other missiles.

Headquarters for the barge line are in Joliet, Illinois. Mr. Meechling is now retired and living in Fort Myers Beach, Florida. His three sons are associated with him in the business.



The steamer, Marion, first boat through the Hennepin Canal feeder Nov., 1907

In 1908, the words and music of this song by L.L. Emmons was published in the Sterling Evening Gazette. Mr. Emmons was born in Coloma Township in 1856.

ROCK RIVER OF GOLD

O, beautiful river, Rock River of Gold
I love your sweet mem'ries, sweet mem'ries of old,
Your waters I've waded in childish delight,
I've searched the old bayous for pond lilies white. (Chorus)

My fancies revert to the old swimming hole,
To the spots where I sat with my old fishing pole,
Yes, those are the times that will never grow old,
Those days 'long Rock River, Rock River of Gold. (Chorus)

Oh, happy the hours when I played on your banks,
And made your isles echo in light childish pranks,
Ah, those are the mem'ries that never grow old,
Sweet dreams of Rock River, Rock River of Gold.

Chorus:
Unbidden fancies often go,
To the bayous where pond lilies blow.
My heart is with thee, oh beautiful Rock
O, glimmering, shimmering Rock!
Oh, beautiful river, Rock River of Gold,
I love your sweet mem'ries, sweet mem'ries of old.

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ROCK FALLS IN THE WARS

At the time of the Civil War, Rock Falls, of course, had not yet been founded. Rapid City had ceased to exist as a town, but the township was pretty well settled. We have no definite information on how many men were in the Civil War from Coloma Township. We do know that there were four young men from the Arey house who enlisted. Corp. Richard Arey and James Arey - the names of the other two not known. Robert L. Atkins, who was born in the old house in 1846, was also in the Civil War. After the founding of Rock Falls in 1867, many Civil War Veterans came here to make their homes.

In 1898, the Will Enderton Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, met in Woodworths Grove on Memorial Day. At the grove, the exercises opened with a song "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground," sung by a male quartet with Miss Elsie Leitch as accompanist. Chaplain James Arey invoked the divine blessing after which the Commander J.E. Durstine and Adjutant E.C. Winters, read the orders and Mrs. E.M. Ebersole sang a solo.

Miss Ethel Durstine read Lincoln's Gettysburg address and Miss Jean Atkins gave a recitation.

The following members of Will Enderton Post who were there that day were: F.D. Rosebrook, W.N. Pearl, George Canning, J.D. David, G.O. Bassett, James Sullivan, Wm. Barker, J.K. Williams, A.J. Bindsley, J.F. Brumley, Darius Underwood, Wm. Frank, E.C. Winters, C.O. LaSelle, D.S. Underbill, J.O. Wagley, John Kadel, R.L. Atkins, J.C. Arey, J.V. McCarty, J.A. Morrison, Geo. Lowrey, H.L. Shiffer, E.C. Palmer, Adam Brown, D.J. Melburg, Ira Compton, C.O. Deyoe, W.A. Hall, M. Gassenschmidt, J.E. and W.G. Durstine, W.G. Patton, H.N. Hetherington and Freeman Clemmons. Truman Culver, who was a First Lieutenant and Henry Price, were also Civil War Veterans. Others who belonged to this post were: H.L. Brewer, S.H. Stoner and J.O. Wagley. John Mosier, Charles Allen and Nelson Smith belonged to the Will Robinson Post in Shiller. These last six named, along with Geo. Canning and H.L. Shiffer, were among the last survivors of the Civil War.

This list of names, of course, gives only the survivors of this grim war. We know the youngest of the Arey family was killed in battle and, of course, many others. There are 57 Civil War Veterans buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery. Of this number, all were Union men but one. One lone Confederate soldier lies in this northern graveyard.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

The Sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry in which most of the volunteers from Rock Falls served, was mustered into the United States Army on May 11, 1898. Companies E and I arrived in Santiago, Cuba on July 11, just after the bombardment of that city had stopped. The troops were on the Cruiser Columbia, but were not permitted to leave the ship and go ashore. On July 21, they left Santiago and on the following morning, landed at Guanica, Porto Rico.

It proved to be a peaceful occupation of the island, as the Spanish troops did not go on the offensive. The regiment had one minor skirmish with the enemy. Orders were given to proceed to Ponce and on July 30, they broke camp. It was a discouraging march. The roads were nearly impassable from the rains, the beef was not fit to eat, the ground was literally crawling with centipedes, half ripe bananas fried in grease was their only luxury and their outfits so heavy that even ammunition and bayonets were discarded. They spent 8 days of primitive existence in Ponce.

Soon many of the boys were barefoot, some had no trousers, all had beards and all were half starved. The regular rations were hardtack and sowbilly. However, orders came to march homeward and morale was restored.

On September 7th, they sailed on the Manitoba, an English transport and disembarked in New York on September 14. That same evening, they boarded the train for Springfield and on September 16, were in Camp Lincoln. On September 22, all companies were permitted to go home for a 60 day furlough, to return to Springfield and be mustered out on November 25, 1898.

Some of the men listed in the original roster of the "Old Sixth" as being from Rock Falls were: Arthur Deem, Gus Hanson, DeVille B. Deyoe, Charles and Harry Eberle, Charles Johnson, Bert Palmer, Herman Rodemyer, Frank Rossiter, Sgt. F.E. Wagley, H. N. Geyer, Sam Feigley and Frank Blair. M.L. Alpress from Mont-

morency also served. Some of these men's addresses were not listed as being Rock Falls and there may be others where this is the case. Arthur Deem was the last Spanish American War Veteran to pass away and died in 1964. He is buried in Riverside Cemetery. There are 17 veterans of this war buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery.



Sgt. Arthur Deem
Spanish-American War, Last Surviving Veteran Here

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Whiteside County sent approximately 3000 men to World War I and of that number, probably 400 to 500 were men from Rock Falls. They served in many regiments and divisions in all parts of Europe, and in all branches of the service. The 33rd division, made up of Illinois National Guard, was the most representative military organization from the state; the 86th division that trained at Camp Grant in Rockford, being broken up to make replacements for nearly every division in the army in France. 342 men from Whiteside County left Sterling on June 24 of 1918.

The 33rd served with both the English and French armies as well as with General John Pershings American Army.

After the Armistice was signed on November 11 of 1918, our men were kept overseas for occupation duty and it was not until June of 1919 that most of them were discharged and returned to their homes.

Burt E. Brown Post No. 326, Veterans of Foreign Wars was named for the first boy from Rock Falls to die overseas in World War I. Eighty five World War I veterans are buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery as of Memorial Day, 1967.

WORLD WAR II

World War I did not do what the boys of World War I fought for, and in the 1930's, the world was at war again in Europe. The United States had tried to remain neutral, but when Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941 by the Japanese, we were again plunged into a world-wide conflagration. The boys from Rock Falls responded, as they always have. They enlisted or were drafted from many places in the nation where they were working or attending school. So an accurate count of numbers of men is a virtual impossibility. Pictures of 348 men appeared in the newspaper, but we know there were many more than that, that answered the call to the colors.

The men and women from "our town," Rock Falls, served in all branches of the service and all over the world. Because of the large number, naming names is an impossibility.

There are 31 World War II veterans buried in I.O.O.F. Cemetery as of Memorial Day, 1967. Undoubtedly, many more are buried in military cemeteries elsewhere.

Since World War II, our men have also served in Korea and at present are giving service in the Viet Nam conflict. There are 3 Korean War veterans in our cemetery. One has already been buried from Viet Nam and we know not how many more.

Our men and women have always done their duty in any conflict in which our beloved country has been involved, and in years to come, will continue to do so. We pray someday, the giving of lives and service on the battlefield will become an outmoded way of settling the troubles of our world.

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SERVICEMEN'S HONOR ROLL

During World War II, Rock Falls honored the boys who entered the service by erecting an Honor Roll on the side of the Wheelock Building on First Avenue. A huge white board was erected and as the boys were enlisted into the service their name was added to the others which had gone before them. And as each of the boys were reported "Killed in Action" a Gold Star was placed beside his name.

In 1947, the Honor Roll was decommissioned with a service which was led by Sam Rubin, and which the High School band participated under the direction of Elmer Ziegler. Echo taps were played by Donny Little and Neil Tousley.

MONTMORENCY TOWNSHIP

The history of our area would not be complete without the mention of two townships - Montmorency and Hume, which have contributed much to the well-being of Rock Falls, because most of the residents in this area call Rock Falls their post office and educate their children in our high school district.

Montmorency was attached to Coloma Township, for judicial purposes, from the time the townships were organized in 1852, until it completed its own organization in 1859.

Some of the early township officers whose names are still familiar family names are: Supervisors Joseph Golder, George Sawyer, Tyler McWhorter, C.C. Buell. Other names which still are familiar are: Golder, Woods, Church, Scott, Frank, Baner, Lawrence and Sturtz.

Montmorency voted to subscribe \$50,000 to the building of the Chicago, Rock River Railroad, which went through the northeast portion of the township. After a long legal battle, the courts ruled the election illegal, as only 43 votes were cast, which was not a majority of the legal voters of the township. Therefore, no money was ever paid on the railroad.

The first school, opposite Alonzo Golder's residence, was built in 1856. It was blown to fragments in the tornado of June 3, 1860. This storm did a lot of damage in the township.

The school was rebuilt and named Golder School, later being called Excelsior. There were six other schools in the township. Alpress, Baner, Elmendorf, McWhorter, Sturtz, and Swan Lake. The first five were named for pioneers of the area. Swan Lake, the last to be organized was the first school to close. These schools have been consolidated and all students now attend Montmorency School.

Golder Road was the first graveled road in the township and in the 1920's, became the first paved road south from Rock Falls, becoming Route 88. Buell Road, McNeil Road and Thome Road are all named for early settlers.

Asa Scott came to the township in 1847, Robert McNeil in 1849, Tyler McWhorter in 1854, Alonzo Golder in 1856. C.C. Buell settled here after serving in the Civil War. The Yeoward addition, east of Rock Falls, is named for the Yeoward family, many who still reside in this area. Jacob Lauff, aged 84, is the oldest man in the township. Henry Deitz has the longest residence, having been born in the township 81 years ago.

The most famous man of today, who resides in the Montmorency area, is Woodrow Wilson King, known to most people as "Sid". Wilson is the son of a former mayor of Rock Falls, David King. He has engaged in farming since the 1930's and now owns and operates Kinglore Farms, Inc. He breeds registered Angus cattle. "Sid" married the former Lorraine Oltman and they have three sons.

He served as a member of the Livestock and Nutrition Seminar at the Milan International Trade Fair at Milan, Italy in 1965, under the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agricultural. At present, he is serving on the President's National Advisory Commission on Rural Poverty. This group has no connection with the Federal Government, but has been commissioned to make a detailed study of how the migration of rural people to big cities can be slowed or reversed. The problems of these migratory people in the big cities are compounded by their lack of education and/or job training. The Commission has been holding hearings over the United States and with their staff of 10 men, on leave from various universities, will study the testimony and prepare a recommendation for the President by September of this year. Mr. King served as chairman of the public hearings that were held in Washington, D.C., this past February. He is the only farmer on the Commission. Governor Breathitt of Kentucky, is the chairman of the Commission.

Grennan is another name which has long been famous south of Rock Falls. Michael Grennan was an early Montmorency farmer and his granddaughter, Miss Jaqueline (formerly Jean) Grennan, daughter of the Edward W. Grennans, has become a well-known personage in our day. Jean joined the Sisters of Loretto in 1948 where she obtained her educational degree. After years of service, she became President of Webster College, Webster Grove, Missouri, one of the nation's leading liberal arts colleges for women, in 1960. This year, Miss Grennan was released from her canonical vows as a nun, but continues as President of Webster College.

She has served on the President's Advisory Panel on Research and Development in Education, under both President Kennedy and President Johnson. She helped organize the poverty programs "Operation Headstart", a program to bring education of underprivileged children up to the level of others their age, so when they start to school, they will have the same measure of intelligence as their peers.

Miss Grennan is a frequent visitor at her parents farm, which is located in the Swan Lake area of the township.

HUME TOWNSHIP

Although Hume Township is not geographically adjacent to Coloma, as is Montmorency, it is still a close neighbor and calls Rock Falls its post office and is in the Rock Falls High School District.

Hume was organized in 1857, having been attached to Hopkins and Prophetstown Townships for judicial purposes prior to that time. The first settler in the township was Leonard Morse, who came from Lee County in 1836. The next settler was Uriah Wood who came in 1839.

Previous to 1840, David Ramsey and Charles Wright settled here.

A post office was established at South Hume in 1874, but was discontinued after two years.

The six township schools have been consolidated so the pupils now attend either Crestview School or Riverdale in Coloma Township.

The first traveled road in the township was an old stage coach route from Chicago to Rock Island. This is now a blacktopped road and commonly known as Prophetstown Road. It is heavily traveled, with many homes other than farm homes located along its length.

Familiar names from this area as listed in an 1877 atlas are: Fluck, Gaulrapp, Cleveland, Cunniff, Doyle, Vock, Conboy, Sturtevant, McKenzie, Sears and Wilkinson.

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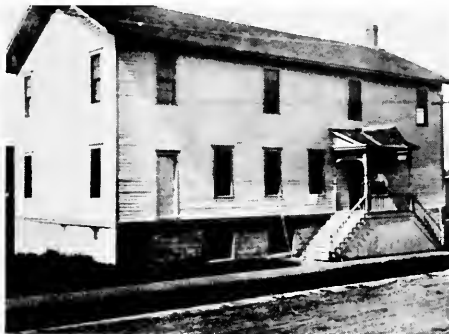
117 West Second Street

ROCK FALLS, ILLINOIS

ROCK FALLS AN INDUSTRIAL CITY

A. P. Smith came west to Illinois in 1856 and settled in the community of Sterling. Mr. Smith was an intelligent and foresighted man, though not a wealthy one. As he looked across the Rock River, he visioned an Industrial City beyond the dreams of anyone in the community. His vision was to build an industrial town.

Water rights had been purchased from Edward Atkins, one of the original settlers of Rapids City by the Sterling Hydraulic Co., who in turn built a dam across the river. In 1867, Mr. Smith purchased a half interest in the power plant and 45 acres of land. This was the beginning of making his dream come true. His plans called for a mill race to be built. However, in order to do this, he needed more land. Most of the land next to the river belonged to a Boston millionaire, Abner Merrill (perhaps related to Isaac and Noah). Mr. Smith approached Mr. Merrill with his plan, and Mr. Merrill told him if he built the race and got at least three factories of not less than \$10,000 capital each, he would deed him the 20 acres along the race.



The mitten factory built in 1869, now the I.O.O.F. Hall

Mr. Smith, having a great deal of experience in the manufacturing of mittens, built a mitten factory in 1869. Water power was not needed for this, so he built it on what is now East Third Street. It was a large three story building and was built at a cost of \$4,000. In 1875, the business was operated by Phelps Brothers and in 1877 by Hubbard, Ward and Clark. Mr. H. P. Price was the cutter during these various changes of ownership. The business was in operation about eight months of the year, with as many as 80 employees, mostly women, during the busy season. They made mittens and gloves of sheepskin, tanned with or without the wool, calf skins and other varieties. The building was used for school purposes at times and was eventually sold to the I.O.O.F. for their Odd Fellows Hall and is still in use today.

Mr. Smith got busy and induced Galt and Tracy, whose factory had recently been destroyed by fire in Sterling, to move to the south side of the river.

Mr. Smith got a party by the name of Parks, to build a paper mill and he and a partner built a grist mill. He now had three factories. The mill race was built at a cost of \$20,000 with an entrance for water just above the dam. He contacted Mr. Merrill, who kept his promise and deeded him 20 to 25 acres. The old plat book of 1877 shows Mr. Merrill owning 150 acres south of the original town and the majority of the deeds for property in the town of Rock Falls show either Merrill Addition or "Merrill and Hapgood" Additions on their deeds.

Mr. Smith now hired John Arey, Deacon Arey's son, to lay out the town. The original town covered the area from the railroad tracks, west to about 5th Avenue and from the river south to about West 5th Street, and to the Dixon Road on the east end.

By 1871, the Galt and Tracy factory became the Keystone Mfg. Co. and by 1877 had grown to such an extent that it required ten buildings. They manufactured corn planters, sulky rakes, cider mills, corn shellers, stalk cutters and seed sowers in their early days. After the death of Mr. Tracy, several changes occurred and the company was purchased by the International Harvester Company before 1908. They continued the manufacturing of farm equipment for many years. Several fires damaged their plant, but they always



River Street, now West 1st St. showing part of old Keystone Buildings

rebuilt. A particularly disastrous one occurred in 1947. Gradually, in the 1950's, as the buildings became older and more obsolete, operations were cut from three shifts down to one and finally in 1961, operations were suspended entirely. Employees with sufficient tenure could either go to the works in Moline, Canton or Chicago, and those near retirement age could retire with pension. It was quite a blow to the economy of Rock Falls when this big industry decided to move out. Various parts of the old Keystone Works are now occupied by several different businesses.

The Eureka Manufacturing Co. was organized in 1871 with a capital stock of \$50,000. Thomas A. Galt was president; M. A. Bunn, vice president; J. G. Crawford, secretary; and Alexander McCloy, treasurer.

By 1887, it was incorporated and some of the first products were school desks, teacher's desks, chairs and portable blackboards. It also manufactured cane bottom chairs; office, hotel and church furniture; a road grader; stalk cutter; check rower and the Becker brush grain cleaner. Later, they built mail-delivery carts for the government. By 1908, the Eureka was listed as the largest of the five carriage builders in the two cities. Carriages were shipped as far as Argentina, Mexico and Cuba. They made fringed surreys, buggies, breaking carts, road carts, buckboards and spring wagons

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at various times in their history. With the advent of the motor driven vehicle in 1910, the company turned to the building of hearses and ambulances, mounted on passenger car chassis.

During World War I, government contracts were filled to supply horse drawn carts to be used in combat. During World War II, they supplied the government with buses, ambulances and turret blankets.

In 1891, Hunter H. Wood joined the firm as a bookkeeper and eventually he acquired controlling interest in the firm. Upon his death in 1953, the Eureka Co., was sold to Wilbur Myers, who had joined the firm as a body builder in 1921. In 1926, Mr. Myers obtained a patent for his table-design, sidelading hearse. Later the three-way loading design was used and the Eureka was granted exclusive rights to build this design for ten years. Mr. Myers' son, Leland, was vice-president of the company. During 1965, after 94 years of business in the same location, the owners decided to discontinue operation. At present, part of the building is occupied by Hampton Construction Co. as offices and warehouse.



Paper Mill as it looked on the River Bank

Feeling the need of a building in which small manufacturers could begin without an investment in a building, Mr. Smith organized a company to build the Industrial Building in 1872. It was built along the river just east of the Parks Paper Mill. It was a substantial brick and stone building of two stories. It was separated by fireproof walls into 6 divisions, each occupied by a different industry. This building has had a long and varied history and is still standing, being the building recently occupied by the Flexonics Co.

In the 1870's, it was occupied at various times by the Rock Falls Mfg. Co., The Whiteside Time, The Utility Works, Keystone Burial Case Co., John Wood and Co., E.C. Palmer, Industrial Mfg. Co., Rock Falls Progress and others.

The Utility Works was owned by A.P. Smith, but was soon sold out to J.A. Patterson. They manufactured a large variety of items, such as portable tables, ironing boards, cutting boards, A. Fassets washing machine and Sterling corn planters.

The Rock Falls Manufacturing Co. began business in Room #1 of the building. It was a successor to the Keystone Burial Case Co. and manufactured coffins and burial cases.

John Wood and Co. were successors to the Union Manufacturing Co. and made the celebrated Rock Falls Wagon.

In 1893, the Industrial Building was sold to the Lawrence Brothers. This company was organized in 1876, with the invention and manufacturing of barb wire. The business was begun in Sterling but with the need for more space, the move to Rock Falls was made. In 1878, the company invented a steel door hanger and steel track for hanging barn and garage doors. They then began manufacturing door hinges and other builder's hardware. They continued operations in Rock Falls until 1913, at which time they built a new factory and returned to Sterling. But Lawrence Brothers is now back on the south side of the river with a new warehouse and shipping facility being built on Route 30 east of town.

Since the Lawrence Brothers left the Industrial Building in 1913, it has been occupied by various businesses. It was occupied by the Fort Dearborn Co. This company was incorporated in 1895 and manufactured dies and tools and special machinery. Neil Saunders was the president.

The Flexonics Corporation then purchased the building. They

manufactured flexible hose. They were in operation here until the early 1960's.

Phelps and Dyer also occupied the Industrial Building at one time. They manufactured three styles of corn planters, the Champion Harrow and the Uphams reversible smoothing harrow.

The Enterprise Works was established by H. F. Batcheller and Son. Mr. Batcheller had invented and received a patent on a hand corn planter in 1859 and began manufacturing them on his farm by hand. His business grew to such degree, that in 1873 he built a building on River Street to house his plant. The plant also made butter churns, cheese boxes, step ladders, harrows, windmills and did planning and sawing of all kinds. The factory occupied 3 lots and operated for quite a number of years before being destroyed by fire.

The Globe Mills, operated by Jacob Zollinger, along with other partners in its years of operation, was located on the race along River Street. It opened in 1872 and specialized in corn meal. It shipped as many as 30 tons of flour, meal and feed weekly.

The first paper mill was built by E.G.W. Parks in 1869. It occupied the site that the old Sanger and Nichols Store had stood on in the days of Rapids City. Mr. Parks took in a partner in the early 1870's and it became known as the Parks and Johnson Paper Mill. Mr. Johnson eventually became sole proprietor and later sold the lot and building to Keystone Co., moving the paper making machinery to Lyndon.

In 1882, E.L. Church, Henry Utley and J.A. Patterson built another paper mill. These gentlemen had built and operated a mill in Sterling and then sold it to Dwight Brothers and took the proceeds and came to Rock Falls and built a new plant. On January 27, 1891, the bleach exploded, wrecking the mill and killing four men. The men killed were: John Meyer, Oliver Miller, Samuel Schrader and William Bell. There was some thought that the explosion of the bleach was a result of sabotage, but it was never proved.



Paper Mill after explosion

W.W. Davis' history of Whiteside County in 1908 lists the paper mill as being the Illinois Straw Products Company and an even later name is given as the Illinois Strawboard and Paper Corporation. It was located along the race at the foot of Fourth Avenue, with warehouses along West Second Street. In the early 1900's, it employed as many as 75 men and they were using 11-1/2 tons of straw daily in making manila, rag and straw wrapping paper. Besides straw, 21 tons of paper stock was used daily and the mill operated day and night. Schultz Brothers were the operators at one time. The company went out of existence in 1928, apparently bankrupt.

The Northwestern Barb Wire Company was organized by Washington Dillon, father of Paul Dillon, in 1879. It had capitol of \$10,000 and it was located adjacent to the old mill race. Barb wire was new at that time and was much in demand in the open plains states.

By 1892, the Dillon-Griswold partnership was formed for the purpose of manufacturing bale ties in Sterling, while Dillon manufactured nails in Rock Falls along with the barbed wire.

Following Mr. Griswold's death in 1902, a series of business transactions took place. By 1912, Washington Dillon owned the company and moved the Rock Falls plant to Sterling. At this time, his son, Paul W. Dillon assumed the responsibility.

The Evan Reed Manufacturing Co. occupied the old stone mill of old Dillon Milling Works in 1908. They made rat and mouse traps, racks, cracker box covers and automatic pulleys.

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Throughout the years, the company has experienced a large growth, until at this time, it stretches along the north bank of the Rock River for over a mile. There are over 3,000 employees and many of those are residents of Rock Falls. Through the years, the Northwestern Steel and Wire Company has played a very important part in the economy, not only of Sterling but also of Rock Falls.

In the late 1890's, Mr. Anthony Corcoran, then of Morrison, invented a machine to make butter tubs. He then came to Rock Falls and had a factory along the river bank behind the Industrial Building. His family received royalties on this invention for many years.

From 1921 until 1933, C.W. Mott had a factory behind his residence at 303 Dixon Avenue. He began by manufacturing butter churns. Then he designed a line of toys for Rich Bros. of Sterling and began manufacturing the wooden wheels for these toys. This later branched out into all types of wood turning.

In 1926, Edwin Berge, professor of music in Rock Falls and Sterling schools, felt he could teach large classes of students on string instruments if he had some kind of cheap instrument on which to teach them bowing and fingering. He contacted Mr. Mott and he designed an inexpensive instrument which had a good tone and the exact bridge, string, fingerboard and peg dimensions as a violin. It was called a "Fiddlette" and eventually a whole group of instruments - the violatette, celloette and bassette - were developed. Production continued good until the depression in 1929, when the Fiddlette customers were the first to lose their jobs.

The wood turning business continued prosperously and was enlarged into novelty furniture, samples of which may still be seen in local homes. All through the depression business was good and while the large manufacturing plants were working as little as two days a week, the Mott plant was working 24 hours a day and reached a peak of 68 employees. With the advent of the N.R.A. in 1933, the plant was closed. Mr. Mott now lives in Missouri.

RUSSELL, BURDSALL & WARD BOLT AND NUT CO.

Bolts and nuts made in a primitive shop in Connecticut back in 1845, held together some of the first prairie schooners that pushed westward through this area. By 1907, the same company that made those fasteners, was putting down roots in Rock Falls, and the Rock Falls plant has proved to be one of the most versatile of RB&W's facilities. Its output during the early years, went mostly to the equipment demands of a burgeoning agricultural industry. By the time Henry Ford unhorsed the buggy, RB&W's Rock Falls facility was already in an ideal location to serve the growing automobile industry. Millions of parts yearly, go into the more than 8 million copies of the family car, the tractors and even the more modern gadgets, like the gasoline-powered snow blower.

RB&W is one of the world's oldest and largest fastener manufacturers. It started in a rented room of a button works in Pemberwick, Connecticut, owned by the brother-in-law of one of the founders, Ellwood Burdsall. Here, William E. Ward and Burdsall started manufacturing wood screws and the business prospered for awhile, until a superior product was introduced by another firm. This ended the manufacture of wood screws for the two partners and they had to find another product to keep the business going. Their answer came from a New York stove manufacturer, who suggested that iron bolts, if fitted with nuts, could be used to put his product together. Ward, the mechanical genius of the partnership, immediately began designing and building machines to make the new fasteners. Soon, the little plant was putting on the market, the first stove bolts and nuts ever made. Business was good and Burdsall was able to give up his \$600-per-year bookkeeping job which had provided the capital which had kept the business going. In 1851, the brother-in-law who owned the button works, Isaac Russell, joined the firm, and it then became Russell, Burdsall & Ward.

Determined to improve on the old and cumbersome process of hot forging bolts by hammer and anvil, Ward had, by 1850, designed, built, and patented the world's first automatic cold heading machine, a device that rocketed the young firm to a position of leadership. From that time on, nearly all of the early bolt and nut making devices were the products of Ward's fertile and ingenious mind. Even some of today's elaborate cold heading machines still contain some of the basic principles of Ward's inventions. The company also designed machines as amazing as their bolt-making brothers for the production of nuts. The milestones of progress in the days of the fastener industry were nearly always Ward-invented

machines. Following the first cold-header, Ward built a machine for making carriage bolts with a square section under the head that prevented the bolt from turning when the nut was applied. His inventiveness was not confined to the fastener industry, however, for he is also credited with the steam-driven plow, the lawn mower and reinforced concrete.

The Port Chester Bolt and Nut Company was organized in 1882, and, by 1901, the Pemberwick and Port Chester plants had consolidated under the name of Russell, Burdsall & Ward Bolt and Nut Co. All of the original partners had previously passed away, but William E. Ward, son of William L. Ward, was elected president of the new company, and Richard and Ellwood Burdsall, Jr., were treasurer and secretary, respectively. Today, the fourth generation - William E. Ward, President and Robert Burdsall, Vice President and Secretary - carry on the family business and traditions. The Russells were never active in the company and their interest was purchased in 1910.

The Rock Falls plant was acquired in 1907 as a base to serve the rapidly growing agricultural industry. The original building was purchased from Cobb & Drew and was located on property leased from the CB&Q Railroad Company. The Cobb & Drew Company, also fastener manufacturers, had originally been located in the old Keystone Building, but later moved their operations to the site which was subsequently purchased from them by RB&W. In 1909, RB&W purchased the ground on which the buildings were located from the CB&Q (the property between Avenue A and the CB&Q main track to Sterling), and, in 1910, started expanding operations - which it has done 12 times since, reaffirming the wisdom and foresight of the company in choosing this site as its first venture in branch plant operation.

To continue with company history, the third branch plant was built at Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. Completed in 1928, it is devoted exclusively to the manufacture of nuts. In 1946, the Los Angeles plant was acquired and the principle product of this plant at first was "Cap Screws", but it has since broadened its line of fasteners.

In the 1950's, the decision was made to diversify, and a tube plant was purchased in Livonia, Michigan. Here, seamless metal tubing is fabricated for automotive components, such as exhaust systems. RB&W began experimenting with sintered or powdered, metal fabricating in the late 1950's, set up a separate division within its Port Chester plant for the development and marketing of powdered metal products, and, through the purchase of a powdered metal plant in Coldwater, Michigan, in 1965, obtained a home for this division. A plastics plant in Hialeah, Florida, was purchased in 1962, and the growth of the plastics industry has necessitated the expansion of this subsidiary. Completion of a new plant is expected in 1967.

Returning to the Rock Falls plant and its history, upon purchase Cobb & Drew, RB&W named A.N. Bradford as the manager, and he continued in this capacity until his death in 1933. The factory had a total area of 43,600 square feet, and consisted of two buildings when Mr. Bradford assumed management. The first major expansion took place in 1910, after purchase of the property from the CB&Q, and added 94,000 square feet. It was not long until it was apparent that more property would eventually be needed and the tract of land east of the CB&Q main line was obtained from the Sterling Hydraulic Company and other property owners. The land was acquired in 1913, but it was not until 1923, that another major expansion took place which added more than 96,000 square feet. By 1927, 20 years after the original purchase, the Rock Falls plant had more than 256,000 square feet of manufacturing space, or almost six times the original area. Further expansions through the latest in 1965, have increased this to 515,000 square feet, or almost 12 acres under roof.

After the death of Mr. Bradford in 1933, Foster Fike was named plant manager, and served until his retirement in 1954. Serving under both plant managers as plant superintendent, was Bill Hill, Sr., who had been with Cobb & Drew at the time ownership was transferred to RB&W, and who retired in 1954, also. William Hoofstittler was the next manager, but only briefly, since he retired in 1955. He was succeeded by Lambert M. Kaspers, who was transferred to the Port Chester plant in 1959, at which time the current plant manager, George Nieman was named.

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Other names associated with the first years of RB&W in Rock Falls and their length of service with the company are: John Broth-eridge, 1907-55; Arthur Deem, 1907-49; W.H. Hess, 1907-47; Au-gust Hoover, 1907-49; William O'Hare, 1907-48; Claude Stoner, 1907-49; C.C. Kadel, 1909-49; Steve Runly, 1909-47; Paul Gronis, 1910-52; Frank Barrus, 1911-47; John Schmitt, 1911-54; David Sheely, 1911-54; George Van Horne, 1911-48; Carl Lundquist, 1912-49; Frank Ruth, 1912-53; Harry Von Bergen, 1912-55; Ray O. Gilman, 1914-62; Clare Huber, 1914-57; Ernest Topping, 1915-45; Albert Breiding, 1916-63; Dallas Drynan, 1916-54; Harry Figeley, 1916-54; Leslie Lansford, 1916-1964; George Brown, 1918-49; George Davis, Sr., 1918-54; Clarence Hinds, 1918-63; Ralph Hoek, 1918-53; A. H. Hussung, 1918-1959; William Lutyens, 1918-(still actively employed); Joseph Glynn, 1919-65; Percy Howard, 1919-58; Harm Lutyens, 1919-64; Dilwyn Batcheller, 1920-66; Bill Georgey, 1920-55; Frank Gray, 1920-58; Joseph Huntley, 1920-(still actively employed); Warren Imler, 1920-52; Arthur Shoemaker, 1920-53.



THE PARRISH-ALFORD FENCE & MACHINE CO., INC.

The Parrish-Alford Fence and Machine Co., Inc., came to Rock Falls in the mid-30's. It was founded in Knightstown, Indiana and purchased by the Northwestern Steel and Wire in 1930 and moved to Rock Falls. Its product was and is fencing, though since 1945, Northwestern Steel and Wire Co. has diversified and expanded the products manufactured. Its products now include: highway reinforcing mats, reinforcing mesh, welded fabric, ornamental lawn fence, gates, welded hardware cloth, plastic coated color guard fence, plastic coated top and lot fence, electro-galvanized pump rods, stone wire, stove pipe wire, fence stretchers. Officers of the company are: President, W.M. Dillon, Vice President, J.W. Bowman; Secretary, S.V. Hitchcock; Treasurer, D.F. Laughlin; Factory Superintendent, C.V. Robinson.

LARSON COMPANY

The Larson Company had its beginning in 1920, in a building neighboring on the west of Bauder's Machine Shop. The equipment was later moved to a building adjoining Wahl Clipper Corporation on East Third Street. By 1923, they occupied a building on Avenue G where they remained for 33 years. In 1956, the new plant was built on Route 30, two miles east of Route 88.

The company is closely tied to local industry for supplies as well as customers. Their products have changed with the times and demands of the changing people. Their light hardware was re-placed by heavy steel to supply materials for the modern new homes.

The Larson Company was a pioneer in their own right when it came to a safety program. They held periodic safety meetings be-fore the National Safety Council was even established, of which Larsons is a charter member. They have won safety awards in nationwide "no-accident contests", which enables its employees to enjoy insurance and hospitalization plans.

The factory is one of the few in the area who have no records of lay-off, due mainly to its close relation with local industry.

Some of the newer industries in Rock Falls include the Hill Fastener Corporation, located on McNeill Road. It was founded in 1957 by W.E. Hill, Jr. and J.R. Hill, who is deceased. The factory produces small bolts and nuts, but its primary product is special fasteners of various designs. The plant employs approx-imately 31 people.

Videocraft, whose home office is in Chicago, came to Rock Falls in 1966, occupying a part of the old International Harvester buildings on West Second Street. This plant makes component parts for television sets and employs about 130 persons. Mr. Leo Thomp-son is the plant manager.

Frazer Manufacturing Corporation is located in Rock Falls' new Industrial Park on East Eleventh Street. Owned by Mr. Charles Frazer, it manufactures electrical fence posts and wire. It em-ploys 6 or 7 persons.

The Sterling Alloy Casting Corporation is located at 102 First Avenue in what was a part of the old Keystone works. The plant makes gray iron and semi-steel castings for industry throughout the Middle West. Mr. Claude Robinson is the executive vice-pres-ident and manager.

Sedcon, Inc., is managed by James N. McNich, and is located on Route 30, east of Rock Falls. They produce Sterling Electric Door Controls for garage, factory or warehouse use.

Rock Falls is growing and will continue to grow because of the industrial potential of our area. One of the things which will make for the future development of our area is the Industrial Develop-ment Committee, headed by Orvel DeWeerth, who in co-operation with the city council, is helping develop the Industrial Park so it will be used to establish new industries in our area. With this area set aside for development, it means the future of Rock Falls is secure for many years to come. The Industrial Park is located for rail - truck - air and if needed, water transportation, as it is near the canal, which helped our area in the years past.

GEYER MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Geyer Manufacturing Company was organized by F.H. Geyer and his son Howard A. Geyer in 1918. The factory was started in a barn located on the lot south of the present post office and behind the residence occupied by the F.H. Geyer family. The company start-ed out by making four items of garden tools - a hoe, a rake and two styles of cultivators.

In 1920, a fire, which completely demolished the barn and most of its contents, forced the company to move to its East Third Street location, where it built its first building. It continued expansion in this area until the plant's removal from the community in 1966.

In 1933, Mr. F.H. Geyer died and Howard A. Geyer assumed the presidency. Under his leadership, the business continued to ex-pand until Geyer was able to offer the trade a complete line of what is known in the industry as "steel goods", i.e: hoes, rakes, cultiva-tors, etc.

In 1952, Geyer Manufacturing sold the assets of its drop forging division to Illinois Forge, Inc., a newly formed company, organized specifically for the purpose of making drop forgings exclusively. This was desirable since the two businesses were oriented toward different sales efforts and really had nothing in common except management personnel. Mr. Geyer assumed the presidency of the new company also.

In 1957, Geyer Manufacturing Company sold the remaining assets and all the garden tool business to the Wood Shovel and Tool Com-pany of Piqua, Ohio. This was a logical move, since neither made the type of tools manufactured by the other and yet all the major competing industries had both lines of steel goods and shovels.

Woods continued to expand the lines and purchased one of the buildings abandoned by the International Harvester Company to bet-ter serve their customers.

In 1965, Woods decided to sell their entire company to Bissell, Inc. of Grand Rapids, Michigan. It was the feeling of the new owners that operations were spread too thin and so some Rock Falls pro-duction facilities were moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan and some to Piqua, Ohio, closing the Rock Falls operation entirely.

As a matter of interest, it has been learned fairly recently, that Bissell has turned over the production facilities of the Wood Shovel & Tool Company to be run by the Union Fork and Hoe Company.

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ILLINOIS FORGE, INC.

Illinois Forge, Inc. was organized and incorporated in July, 1952. When organized, this company purchased all of the equipment and assets of the dropforging division of Geyer Manufacturing Company. The formation of the company was made necessary because of an increasing volume of forging business and the fact that there was not sufficient room for the expansion of facilities at the existing location. An area zoned for heavy industry and permitting plenty of room for expansion was found on East Route 30.

The first building built at the present location was of mill type construction, covering 4,000 square feet of floor space and housed three drophammers. Additions to the plant and equipment have been made almost every year since that time and the square footage of the manufacturing space is now about 50,000 square feet, with twelve drop hammers up to 3000# ram weight, along with the necessary auxiliary equipment to produce forgings. Employment has increased from 30 employees in 1952 to 125 at present.

Illinois Forge, Inc. is a producer of custom made, commercial drop forgings. There is no product line, as such, but each forging is made to a specific customer specification, both as to material and dimensional requirements. All forgings produced are made from Carbon and Alloy steel. No non-ferrous metals are forged. Forgings range in size from a few ounces to ten or twelve pounds.

The company does no machining or finishing of forgings at present. After being made, the scale is removed from the surface by a "shot-blasting" operation. They are then shipped to the customer in this condition or they may be sized or coined to within a few thousandths tolerance in a coining press, if the customer so specifies.

Present officers of the company are: Kieffer Wenger, president; Harold Eshleman, vice-president sales and secretary; Don L. Eades, vice president production and John E. Wenger, treasurer.

MISS ILLINOIS

Representing the state as well as our city, was Glenna Pohly, who became Miss Illinois in 1952. She had won the Miss Sterling pageant, sponsored by the Sterling Junior Chamber of Commerce, when she was 19 and a sophomore music student at Northwestern University. Considerations for the judging were based on natural beauty, poise, personality and talent. At this time, Glenna was 5'2" tall and weighed all of 112 pounds.

Glenna, during her years in Merrill school and Rock Falls High School, was always active in school affairs, as well as in her church and musical circles. She attained many honors with her musical talent on the flute and was also a talented pianist and vocalist. She graduated with honors from both grade and high school. She received the American Legion award upon graduation from Merrill school and was valedictorian of her high school class. She was the first student graduating who had had all A's on her report cards.

Glenna entered the Miss Illinois beauty pageant at East St. Louis on May 17, 1952. She was one of 12 contestants from Alton, Bloomington, Carbondale, Champaign-Urbana, Decatur, East St. Louis, Harvey, Moline, Pontiac, Quad Cities and Quincey. Her talent and beauty excelled again and she was crowned Miss Illinois, spending the following summer making personal appearances at special occasions all over the state, as well as opening the Minneapolis Aquatennial.



Glenna Pohly, Miss Illinois in 1952

On September 1, 1952, Glenna entered the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, N.J. She appeared in the traditional bathing suit, formal and talent displays. Her flute selections were "Pan" and "Indian Love Call". Deems Taylor, a judge at the contest, praised her for her musical talent, but she didn't receive the title.

Following the contest, Glenna returned to her studies at Northwestern University, continuing in flute. She graduated with honors and proceeded to Columbia University for graduate in music. Here she met Alfred Fischer, who is now her husband. They live in New York City and are parents of two lovely children, Adam, who is 3, and Melissa, who is less than a year. Glenna takes time out from her family to keep up with her flute, piano and voice and reflects her adventures as Miss Illinois.

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A. A. Thome & Frank Decker

A. A. THOME

A history of Rock Falls, Illinois would be totally incomplete without the name Anthony A. Thome. It was men like "Tone" whose energy, devotion and spirit enabled Rock Falls to thrive and grow.

Born in Jordon Township on January 1, 1864, Mr. Thome was raised and educated in Lee County. Life was not easy for anyone those days, and a young boy learned that early. A comforting home and sheltered school existence ceased for this lad at the age of thirteen when he was hired out for \$5.00 a month. In his own words: "I did as much work as the hired man, followed him around from morn'til night on the plow, took care of the team, milked five cows, fed the pigs and chickens and then had to hold the baby."

The long working hours and the tedious labor of the farmer held little reward for him; therefore, several years and many jobs later, found him in the blacksmith trade. One learned a trade by working at it. Thus, Anthony Thome prepared himself for his chosen profession by working for Teach and Bracken; a second apprenticeship was served under John Adair. After a two year partnership with Adair in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Thome bought him out. Having "found himself", he built a shop of his own three years later. This was the famous smithy shop on First Avenue in Rock Falls which he operated alone for five years.

When his business was successfully established, Thome admitted John Decker to partnership. They would shoe many a horse in the course of a day. Payment ran as high as \$2.00 per horse until competition became so keen that it dropped to as low as 50¢. This was due to the fact that at one time, there were 14 blacksmith shops in



A. A. Thome

Sterling and 5 in Rock Falls. When the horse shoeing business began to diminish, the blacksmith sharpened plowshares. People came for many miles to have this work done.

The old pump which stood outside the Thome and Decker Blacksmith Shop was much used by the populace and came to be a landmark in itself.

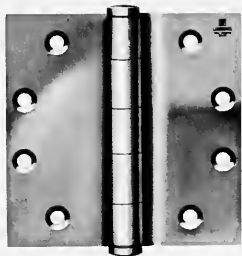
Thome and Decker were in partnership for 51 years, one of the longest partnerships in the country. As Thome said, "We have been together for 51 years all told, with a fight, which I think is a pretty good record." After the death of Mr. Thome in 1951, Decker continued the business until May of 1952. The building has since been remodeled and is still owned by Mr. Decker's son, Wilbur.

Anthony Thome's personal life found him married to Miss Lily Johnson in 1888. To this union, six children were born: Mabel (Eakle), Roy, Clyde, Effie (Pollock), Anthony and Dora (Jacobs). His first wife passed away in 1932 and he then married Miss Mary Metzger. Mr. Thome passed away at the age of 87.

An asset to his community, Thome served on the school board for 12 years, holding the office of board president for one year. During that year, Thome School was built and named for him. His political career began as alderman for a four year term. This was followed by his election as mayor in 1907. Mayor Thome was re-elected three times to total fourteen years as mayor of Rock Falls. His greatest feat was the paving of the street and alleys of the city during his terms of office.

1951 marked the death of A. A. Thome, but his many accomplishments still live in the city of his pride - Rock Falls, Illinois.





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Individuals began our town, organized it, and have kept it going. They have organized groups that work in teams to better the city, but the drive and organization comes from a few people who need to be recognized, not only for a great achievement, but for being one of the forefathers of achievements that were yet to come. The following biographical sketches will help highlight some of these individuals who are responsible for our city.

Merrill

Isaac Merrill was the first settler in Coloma Township. He was a native of Connecticut and along with Edward Atkins, began the first settlement on this side of Rock River in 1837. In the same year, Noah Merrill settled here. November 6, 1838, a son was born to Noah. Nelson B is believed to be the first white child in Coloma Township. Isaac Merrill was a farmer and a shoemaker and also an adventurer, because he sold his claim in 1849 to continue west to California.

Noah Merrill built a cabin 12 x 15 feet, which was covered with bark and had a puncheon floor. He and his family first lived with Dan Brooks, residing in the portion of Rock Falls known as "Gopher Town" during the 1870's. ("Gopher Town" was the southwest part of Rock Falls, taking in the territory now between 10th Avenue and 11th Avenue and from West 5th Street to about 7th or 8th Street.)

The united families numbered 11, one bed and the floor furnished sleeping quarters for all. The women were sisters, so the families lived on peaceable terms.

In 1838, Noah Merrill settled his family in their own cabin opposite Eagle Island and broke several acres of prairie. This same land was claimed by Elijah Worthington of Harrisburg. He having made his claim by plowing around the land. The "Anti-Claim Jumpers Association", on the north side of the river, through a committee, notified Mr. Merrill he must abandon his claim, under penalty of having his family and his possessions thrown in the river. Mr. Merrill decided to resist this threat and in company with Mr. Brooks, they secured arms to await the visitors who did not show up.

Mr. Merrill later sold his claim and in 1850, went to California, where he suffered great hardships. After four years, he returned to Illinois. He settled in Sterling where he passed away December 22, 1873. He had three children other than Nelson, who was born here.

Truman Culver

Truman Culver, for whom Culver Street was named, was born in Booneville, N. Y., September 9, 1835. Due to his having asthma, he was unable to attend school until he was 14 years old. But he advanced so fast in his education, that at the age of 17, he began to teach school. From the age of 22 to 24, he attended college in the winter and did manual labor the rest of the year.

He next went to Pikes Peak to dig for gold, but was not successful. After remaining there a month, in company with three others, he made two canoes from cottonwood, lashed them together to keep them from rocking while on the water and started from Denver (which at that time had only 7 sod houses) down the Platte River to Omaha. But after going about 150 miles, they came to grief by the upsetting of their craft in a whirlpool caused by a beaver dam. They lost everything except a part of a sack of flour. They made a fire on the bank, rolled their rescued flour, which had become wet in the accident, into balls and roasted them in the coals for their bread, which they stored in a small sack. They started on foot and subsisted on these bread balls two days, when they met an old trapper, from whom they purchased an old coffee pot, without spout, handle or bail for \$4.50. In this, they made a gruel out of the dry portion of the balance of their flour, which lasted them about a week.

After their gruel was gone, they barely subsisted for many days on cactus, weeds and grass and 5 frogs. One night, Mr. Culver heard his two companions plotting to kill and eat him. He pretended he heard some frogs which he went to look for and thus disappeared from those fellows. He soon fell in with a band of Indians who gave him "jerked" antelope. They refused money but did accept a bright colored tie. With this sustenance, Mr. Culver walked on for many days until he sank exhausted on the bank of the Platte. He wrote on an envelope, his address and a statement that he had starved to

death, and there he lay insensible, he didn't know how long, when he was discovered by four men, in the first boat that ever succeeded in getting down the river. They took him aboard their boat and gave him broth and after a few days, he was strong enough to steer the boat. Their provisions, too, were soon exhausted and they had to search for something to eat. The best they could find was the carcass of a buffalo that had lain so long as to become tainted, but they made it palatable by scorching it. A day or two after it gave out, they arrived at Fort Kearney, where they were cared for by the army surgeons. Mr. Culver found he weighed only a little over 100 pounds, having lost about 70 pounds.

Mr. Culver came to Whiteside County and worked on a farm near Morrison in 1861. He enlisted in the Union Army as a private and was under fire more than 100 times. At the battle of Gettysburg, he was wounded in the right ankle on the second day of the engagement, but he remained on duty to the close of that battle. He was honorably discharged in 1864 as a First Lieutenant.

Mr. Culver was married to Miss Clarinda Allen on September 5, 1865 in Morrison. He then came to Rock Falls and opened a grocery store, building the first new store building in Rock Falls on the corner of Main and May Streets. He then engaged in the boot and shoe business one door east. In 1898, Mr. Culver built the building now occupied by Harting's Market. Truman Culver was the first postmaster in Rock Falls, taking that post on March 15, 1868 when the postoffice was established.

Mr. and Mrs. Culver had but one child, Glen, who died at the age of five years. Mr. Culver passed away January 31, 1907.

Augustus P. Smith

Augustus P. Smith, Esq. was a native of Cobleskill, New York and was born February 2, 1831. In 1848, he went to New York City, where he resided two years and then became a resident of Cherry Valley, New York, where he also remained for two years. He then moved to Gloversville, New York, residing there until he moved to Sterling, Illinois in 1856. Mr. Smith was married to Miss Elvira J. Champlin at Gloversville, April 14, 1855. To this union were born four daughters; Florence May in 1859, Mabel E. in 1861, Helen Marr in 1863 and Gertrude in 1868. Mr. Smith passed away on October 1, 1895, leaving his wife and one daughter, Helen Klink to mourn his passing. The funeral services were held from the Rock Falls Methodist Church with the Congregational pastor, Rev. Frensdhagen officiating. Flags were flown at half mast in both Rock Falls and Sterling. Mr. Joseph Wright wrote in 1927: "he was painfully impressed at the few that attended his funeral to do him honor". Although at one time he was a very wealthy man, he died virtually a pauper. He was buried in Riverside Cemetery. His wife passed away in December of 1899.



Mr. Smith, while residing in Sterling, was a music teacher and directed the choir in the Congregational Church. Mr. Wright, who had many business dealings with him, stated "he was a man of more than ordinary ability, with a very pleasing manner and a fine musician".

He built a fine home, Oaklawn, at what is now 704 East Second Street. The house is still standing and is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ney Phillips. The first business he started was the Smith and Smith Flouring Mill, which burned down soon afterwards. In 1869, he also built the mitten factory. In 1872, he organized a company and built the Industrial Building. He established several other small

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manufacturing concerns, none of which he operated for very long. An 1877 city directory, shows him having a knitting mill over Chamberlins Jewelry Store, and also a real estate office from which he sold business and residential lots and hydraulic power.



Augustus P. Smith

Grove Wright

Writer, teacher, nurseryman and poet, Grove Wright had his nursery, Maple Grove, north of what is now Dixon Avenue as far as Third Street. He made a specialty of fruit and greenhouse plants and had some \$10,000 invested in this property. There was also a deposit of peroxide of iron or hematite on this property. This mineral was used in the manufacture of paint by the Sterling Mineral Paint Co. and the paint lasted so well, many railroads and manufacturers used it across the country. One can still see traces of this mineral in the form of red deposits along the river bank.

Mr. Wright at one time taught at the Old Brick School (East Coloma). At a picnic held at this school in 1897, Mrs. Nancy Macomber read a poem of 26 stanzas which Mr. Wright had written. Two of the verses are:

This is the lot, and this is the spot
Assigned to education;
And here was laid without parade,
The old brick school foundation.

What'er befalls, long may these walls,
With reverence still impress you,
Then will your years, have scanty tears,
And Children's children bless you.

Daniel F. Batcheller

Daniel F. Batcheller was born in Bethel, Vermont, September 8, 1803. In May of 1840, he came to this area and made a claim in Coloma. He had 6 children, among whom was Henry F. Batcheller, born in 1834. Henry invented and secured a patent on a hand corn planter in 1858 and began manufacture of this planter, along with his father. The Sr. Batcheller retired in 1870 and in 1876, Henry's son, A.M., became a partner. They added the manufacturing of windmills, cheese boxes and did planing as well as all kinds of sawing. Their factory was on River St., now First Street. In the 1870's he lived about a mile east of R.F. and was supervisor of the town of Coloma.

Almon Wheeler

Almon Wheeler was born in West Moreland, N.H. in August, 1813. He became a school teacher in that state, which occupation he followed until he came west. June 1, 1842, he was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Wellington. They came to Illinois in the early 1850's, making their home first in Belvidere and then in Cherry Valley, where he engaged in the lumber business. In 1873, they moved to Mendota and in 1867 to Rock Falls. In both places, he engaged again in the lumber business. His first business was on the sight of the old paper mill, then to the present site of the Johnston Lumber Co. He was instrumental in getting the railroad to Rock Falls. From 1873 through 1875, he was president of the board of the village of Rock Falls.

He built a fine home on the site now occupied by the Rock Falls post office. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler had three children, Frank Wellington, Susan, who married W.W. Brown and Jennie, who married F.H. Geyer. Howard Geyer of the Geyer Mfg. Co. was born in this house.

Mrs. Wheeler passed away March 3, 1887 and Mr. Wheeler on June 28, 1892. They have many descendants in this area.

F.W. Wheeler and W.W. Brown carried on this business which Almon had established.



Almon Wheeler

Asa F.R. Emmons

Asa F.R. Emmons was born in Kingston, Canada. His early years were passed in Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New York City. In the latter place, he worked at the carpenter's trade.

On December 25, 1835, he was married to Elizabeth Ann Bartlett in Pennsylvania. A daughter Harriet, who married a Mack, was born to this union on April 1, 1838. In 1839, he and his wife with all their earthly belongings, came to this area in a covered wagon. They settled in Harrisburg, later called Sterling, when there were only 4 houses in the town. He built the 5th, staking a claim in Coloma Township in 1840 and moving there. The site was 2 miles east on the Dixon Road and there he built a small house. The sod was broken by the use of three pair of oxen. One man drove the oxen while the other held the plow. Corn was taken to Peru, the nearest market and there exchanged for coal. Wheat was hauled to Chicago and sold for 25¢ a bushel. It took 5 days to come and go to market.

His wife died July 21, 1842. He was married to Nancy A. Booth on January 31, 1842. To this union, 6 children were born.

In 1846, Asa went to the land office in Dixon and bought the 15 acres of land that he stocked out for \$69.00. This land includes the present Riverview and part of the Geyer Farm. On February 2, 1848, he sold the land to Eliphalet B. Worthington. In 1850, the land was sold at a sheriff's sale for \$9.75. He then moved to Rapid City into a new home he had built, located at the corner of 5th Street and 9th Avenue. The house is still standing on the southeast corner.

Mr. Emmons then entered a partnership with a Mr. Pierce. They were carpenters, building houses along with building and selling furniture. Driving a team of horses and a wagon to Chicago, they camped along the trail side. The journey was made many times to purchase materials and items of furniture.

Asa's wife, Nancy, chose a sewing basket and a rocking chair from the first two loads returned. These items are now in the possession of Mrs. Maruice (Alice) Wick, a great, great, granddaughter.

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Front Row: Harriett Emmons, Mack, Nancy Emmons, Asa Emmons
Back Row: Ida Emmons Hewitt, William L. Emmons, Nancy Caro Emmons Mingle

Asa was a tax collector in Rapids City in 1852 and was Rapid City's second postmaster. He took an active part in the early politics of both Rapid City and Rock Falls. With the co-operation of Almon Wheeler, Mr. Emmons was instrumental in securing the CB&Q railroad in Rock Falls. Asa died December 29, 1902, in Rock Falls and interment was made in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery. He was a member of the Rock Falls Methodist Church.

In addition to Mrs. Wick, other descendants living in Rock Falls are Lloyd Emmons, a great grandson and Fred Johannsen, a great, great, grandson.

L.H. Woodworth

L.H. Woodworth was born in Norwich, Vermont, October 20, 1806. He attended the military, scientific and literary school at Middletown, Conn. After completing his studies, he was a teacher in the Military School at Perth Amboy, N.J., afterwards being an assistant Professor of Mathematics in Jefferson College, Miss. He spent two years in the state of New York as resident engineer up on the Black River Canal. In the spring of 1839, he came west and settled at the Upper Rapids on the south side of Rock River where he bought the claim of Isaac Merrill. He had charge as engineer of the contract to build the canal around the rapids in the river. Mr. Woodworth divided part of his claim into lots, which are now a part of Rock Falls. He and Dan Brooks were the two first Justices of the Peace in Rapids Precinct. He was also a swamp land commissioner, a surveyor and supervisor. Two sons were born by his first marriage to Parmelia Parks; Leonard H., who in the 1870's, lived in Sterling and Geo. L. who was killed in the Civil War in 1852. He married Mrs. Alice Goodell in 1845 and to this union, Clarence and Alice were born.

Joseph A. Bickford

Joseph A. Bickford, founder of the Eureka Mfg. Co., was a native of Massachusetts. After engaging in manufacturing in Lockport, N.Y. and Houghton, Mich., he came to Illinois in 1868 and settled in Rock Falls. He served as village trustee and also as township collector and assessor at different times. Mr. Bickford and his wife were parents of two children; a daughter, who died in infancy and Joseph M.

Joseph M. became a pharmacist and entered into partnership with F.W. Wheeler and opened a drug store in Rock Falls in 1880. In 1882, he purchased Mr. Wheeler's interest and continued in business until 1902. He then sold the business. In 1903, he opened a drug store in Sterling which continued in operation until very recently. Joseph A. was one of the organizers of the Rock Falls Methodist Church and he and his wife and son lived on Gray Street just south of Main Street. The Sterling Drug Store stayed in the Bickford family through Dean and his son, Ned.

Dr. John L. Morrill

Dr. John L. Morrill came to Rock Falls to practice his profession in 1867. He was born October 19, 1823 at Olean, N.Y. He practiced in Yorktown for eight years before coming to Rock Falls. He and his wife had two children and were members of the Methodist Church. They built a fine home on Grove St. at the end of Elm, now 300 Fifth Avenue.

Jeremiah V. McCarty

Jeremiah V. McCarty was born June 22, 1842 in London, England. He came to America with his parents at the age of 8. The family settled in Whiteside County in 1857, living on a farm northeast of Round Grove. He enlisted in the army in 1861 at the outbreak of the Civil War and served three years, taking part in many major battles. He was fortunate, though, and was only hospitalized once.

When mustered out of the army, he followed various pursuits until he took up railroading in 1868. During that time, he lived in Logansport, Indiana and was married there to Mary Amelia Cassidy on April 22, 1875. They had two children, Charles J. Gertrude, who both graduated from Rock Falls High School. Gertrude married John Kadel, Jr.

Mr. McCarty returned to Illinois in 1881 and settled in Rock Falls, where he purchased the business interests of the Montague family and dealt in coal, lime and building materials on River Street. He sold out that business in 1898 and engaged in building operations until 1905 when he and his son-in-law, John Kadel, Jr. formed a partnership in the hardware business.

J.V. McCarty was the paving contractor who laid the brick for the paving of West 2nd Street and Dixon Avenue. Prior to this time, the streets were just sand. A team of horses could hardly pull a wagonload of grain or any material.



J.V. McCarty Coal Office
J.V. McCarty on left, Ross Smith on right, Man in center unidentified
Paper Mill Office and Sheldon's Elevator shown in rear

Kadel Family

In, and shortly following the year 1875, seven members of the Kadel family, five brothers and two sisters and their husbands, moved from Fayette Co., Pennsylvania to make their homes in Rock Falls. They were by name, Adam, Ben, John, Peter, William, Catherine Kadel Stahl and Mollie Kadel Brown.

It is presumed that the old Keystone Manufacturing Co. drew them to this community, as the men were all originally employed by that firm.

Ben and Peter Kadel eventually moved from Rock Falls. The others lived out their lives here.

In later years, Wm. Kadel owned and operated a grocery store on the main street. He also, at one time, was town commissioner of streets and alleys.

Mr. John Kadel served his community as mayor for two terms, as alderman several times and for many years, was the chairman of the board of education. He was organizer and director of the Keystone band which was well known throughout our area in the early days of the city. He was cashier at the old Rock Falls National Bank for many years.

Wm. H. Cadwell

Wm. H. Cadwell, who owned the first newspaper in Rock Falls, was born in Hartford, Conn. on December 28, 1826. He came to Illinois in 1856, residing in Belvidere where he engaged in the newspaper business and was also an American Express Agent. In 1870, he formed a partnership with W.H. Tuttle and came to Rock Falls where they began publication of the Progress. Its publication was discontinued after 6-1/2 years but Mr. Cadwell continued in the job-printing business. Their business was conducted in #5 Industrial Building. He and his wife had one daughter, who married Mr. W.H. Tuttle.

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ILLINOIS

Worthingtons

Artemus W. Worthington was born in Colchester, Conn. in 1813 and settled in Coloma Township in 1840. He was the first postmaster of Rapids in 1847. In 1849, he was again appointed that office and was postmaster until 1855 as well as town supervisor in 1854. He was a farmer and while picking up wheat sheaves in 1855, was bitten by a rattlesnake, from the effects of which he died on August 1, 1855.

At the time he came to Coloma Township, there were only two houses on this side of the river. The first Worthington home was built of hardwood walnut clapboards and the window sash and doors were of butternut wood. The only means of crossing the Rock River was in little dugouts. Artemus laid out the first state road, extending from Lanark to Peru, a distance of 90 miles. It frequently lay across swamps and there was not a bush or sign of habitation within 20 miles. His wife was still living in 1908 at the age of 96. Alfred, one of the six children born to the Worthingtons was a farmer and served as town commissioner and road commissioner.

Robert McNeil

McNeil, a well-known name in Rock Falls, dates back to 1849 when Robert McNeil came to America on the Ship Fraconia from Glasgow, Scotland. Mr. McNeil married at nineteen and brought his bride to Coloma Township, east of Rock Falls to what is now the Dixon Road. To this union 4 girls and 4 boys were born. Mr. McNeil served as road commissioner for the township in 1890.

A son, Alex, had a hardware store in Rock Falls for many years. The McNeils lived to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.

The Kelley Triplets

One of the great events to the citizens of Rock Falls and surrounding territory in the year 1911, was the birth of triplets to Mr. and Mrs. Guy Kelley. They had two sons at the time the triplets, all girls, were born. The family lived on First Avenue, just north of the Thome and Decker Blacksmith Shop at the time Helen, Hazel and Hester were born.

In a recent communication with Hester, she told of some of the happenings of her family. Their birth caused much excitement in the community, as triplets were a rare happening in those days. People flocked to their home just to see the three girls. They were the subject of many baby pictures. Their parents enjoyed getting them all dressed up to walk down the avenue or to have their pictures taken. One time, they went out to the country home of Fred G. Jurgens, a well-known photographer of that era, to have their pictures taken. The Jurgens home was just outside the city limits, on the Prophetstown Road and Mrs. Jurgens kept Jersey cows and churned butter. On this particular occasion, the girls were all dressed up in big bows, long white stockings and white dresses. When Mr. Jurgens had his cameras set and ready to go, there was no Helen. Looking about, they found she had fallen into a tall can of buttermilk; so there was no picture that day.



Fred G. Jurgens, who took many of the old pictures reproduced in this book.

Kelley was killed in an accident in 1918. By this time, there was another son and four months after his death, another daughter. The family then moved to Mendota, Illinois to be near a brother of Mrs. Kelleys. When the triplets were fourteen, they moved to Darien, Wisconsin, where the family began farming. The triplets were 18 years old before they were separated by marriage. Hazel and Hester married Darien boys. Helen married Clifford Merwin of Woodstock, Illinois. They now live in San Diego, California. Hazel, Mrs. Frank Schuster, passed away in 1964, of cancer. Mrs. Kelley passed away three weeks later at the age of 81. Hester, Mrs. Royal Jones, lives in Darien, Wisconsin. They are farmers and Hester is matron and dietician at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf at Delavan.



Kelley Triplets, age 21 months. Born Oct. 7, 1911, Rock Falls, Illinois
Hazel - Hester - Helen

Sturtevant

Josiah C. Sturtevant was born at Center Harbor, N.H., June 16, 1805. He came to Illinois in 1844 along with his wife, the former Mary A. Robbins, whom he married in Peacham, Vermont on March 16, 1826. He began farming in Coloma Township. He and his wife were parents of 17 children of whom 11 lived to maturity. A daughter, Antoinette, was the first school teacher in Coloma Township. Mr. Sturtevant was made the first Justice of the Peace and also the first road commissioner of the township. He retired from farming in 1893 and moved into Rock Falls. His wife passed away February 3, 1881 and Mr. Sturtevant died October 4, 1895, the result of a fall in which he broke his hip.

Isaac Sturtevant, a brother of Josiah, came to Illinois the same year as his brother. He was also engaged in farming in Coloma Township. He was married to Miss Susan Summers, November 25, 1834 and they had nine children. He also moved to Rock Falls when he retired.

The Sturtevants have many descendants still in this area, but the only one bearing the name Sturtevant is John, a grandson of Josiah, who lives on West 5th Street in Rock Falls.

Clarence Frye, M.D.

Clarence Frye was born in Morrison, April 4, 1877. He attended the schools of Morrison and graduated from Rush Medical College of Chicago in 1902. He then came to Rock Falls to practice the medical profession.

Dr. Frye was coroner for 44 years; was Dr. for the old Keystone Co. for many years and was medical examiner for a large number of years.

Dr. Frye was married to Miss Birdie Ferris, November 7, 1905 and they made their home at 305 Dixon Avenue. They were the parents of four children; Helen (Cameron), Mary Ruth (Sonneman), Catherine (Wyatt) and Vernon, now an attorney in Sterling.

Dr. Frye passed away December 1, 1950 and Mrs. Frye on February 2, 1964.

Joseph Wright

Joseph Wright came to Rock Falls in 1869. He later bought a farm in Montmorency Township, where he farmed until the death of his wife in 1882. While there, he was elected highway commissioner and along with James Frank and Corneil Batcheller, supervised the construction of the first drainage ditches in Whiteside Co.

After selling his farm, he moved back to Rock Falls and went into partnership with Sheldon and Son in the sale of farm machinery and the buying and shipping of livestock to Chicago. He had charge of the interests of Abner Merrill in Rock Falls until Mr. Merrill sold his interests to Martin Bros.

Mr. Wright was elected to the board of education and served several terms and one term as president of the board. He was appointed mayor to fill out the term of Egbert Wilson, the first mayor who passed away while in office. He was postmaster from 1894 until 1898. He served as a member of the city council for 20 years. He then refused to serve longer unless Sterling and Rock Falls united as one city. In 1913, Mr. Wright left Rock Falls and moved to Michigan to a farm, and later moved to Chicago. He died in 1944 at the age of 96.

Swellhead Avenue

Just before the turn of the century, the length of West Third Street in Rock Falls, from the corner of Avenue B west to the CB&Q tracks, was known as Swellhead Avenue, according to J. Willard Andrews, who came to live on this famous old street on March 16, 1899. He was a schoolboy then and only later realized the reason it was called Swellhead Avenue. Here on this street and in the neighborhood lived the real backbone of Rock Falls, business and professional men and their families, as well as humbler, hard-working folks who formed the sturdy fabric of which this community was woven.

On this southeast corner of Swellhead Avenue and Avenue B, lived Grove Wright, famous old schoolmaster and nurseryman. The Worman family, the father a manufacturer of butter, lived on the opposite corner, the southwest.

Next, let's take a quick glance at the folks who lived along the south side of the street, from Avenue B to the Q tracks. Mrs. Babcock and daughter Maizie, a school teacher, George Eckart who came to help build the canal, liked Rock Falls and stayed; Phil Cullins, clerk at the CB&Q depot in Sterling; D.O. Coe, partner in the Coe & Van Sant Lumber Co., now Johnston Lumber Co.; Tess Shaw, who operated a hack line; Ed Limond, cigar manufacturer; S.N. Mingle with the Keystone Mfg. Co.; J.M. Bickford, druggist; "Doe" Boynton, conductor on the old Shabbona passenger; John L. Newton, retired merchant; Mr. Creighton and son Len, a brakeman on the CB&Q; A.J. McNeil, hardware merchant; the Dr. Deeming family, father of the late Dr. C.O. Deeming; Dr. Blake, a young doctor and friend of every boy in town; C.L. Hubbard, prosperous grocer; and finally on this south side, near the tracks, Mr. Hoeffler, a retired butcher, who raised his smoking tobacco on the sand hill where the Geyer Mfg. Co. was for many years.

A cherished memory of many was the fun they had on the corner of Swellhead Avenue and Avenue B. On this corner, all the boys and girls of Swellhead and the surrounding neighborhood, assembled nightly for "Run Sheep Run", "Duck on, Duck off" and many other games. It was an unwritten law among the youngsters, that when the Shabbona passenger whistled at the canal bridge, every kid started for home. They never waited for the curfew which blew at 8 o'clock in winter and 9 in summer.

Proceeding down the north side of Swellhead on the corner, was the home of Mr. Hayward, superintendent of Cobb & Drew, now the RB&W. Next to it was one of the most beautiful old houses on the street, the Holbrook home, used by the U.S. Engineers under Capt. L.L. Wheeler, assisted by Fred Honens and Willard Powers. Next to it, the home of Mrs. Sheldon, a widow and her children, Charles, John, George and Florence, the next one was the home of H.H. Williamson, who peddled his wares from a democrat wagon hitched to a big white horse. Mr. Williamson was a Civil War Veteran. Next to it is the great white mansion, which was owned by A.C. Stanley, the big merchant of northern Illinois who operated the Stanley House, sold bread from his own bakery for 2¢ a loaf, was supervisor of Coloma Township and later mayor of Rock Falls. The next house was the home of J. Willard Andrews. His father bought the house

from L.C. Thorne, the banker. F.E. Andrews, the father, was a prominent lawyer. He made the survey that had the most to do with the government's decision to place the Hennepin Feeder at Rock Falls, rather than at Dixon.

ROCK FALLS FIRSTS

In the summer of 1867, the first general merchandise store in the new village of Rock Falls was opened. It was operated in a building moved here from Como by A.D. Hapgood on the northwest corner of Main and May.

The first new store building was built by Truman Culver in November of 1867 and used as a grocery.

This was also the site of the first post office which was established in 1868 and Mr. Culver was the first postmaster.

The first marriage also occurred in 1867; that of Gideon Reynolds and Mary Arey.

The first birth was that of Lenoreta Barker in 1868 and the first death also occurred in that year, that of B. C. Hunt on September 15.

The first drug store was begun in 1868.

Andrew Goodell and Charles Ingall started the first hardware store, also in 1868.

Joseph H. Bacchus was the first blacksmith, in 1868.

The first hotel was the Rock Falls House on what is now Third Avenue. It was opened by Mr. Doty in 1868. (I believe this was the old Marlfeet house.)

The first meat market was opened in 1868 by Wm. L. Smith. The first physician was Dr. J.L. Morrill who came in 1868.

The first schoolhouse was erected in 1868 at the corner of Elm and Bridge streets. This building was also the first city hall, in 1889.

Mr. M.R. Harris was the first teacher.

The first church was the Methodist Episcopal, organized in 1868.

The first village election was held on February 4, 1869.

The first village president was W.L. Smith and Henry Price was the first clerk.

The first jeweler was A.W. Erb, who began business in 1869. Brown and Ryan were the first livermen.

The first milliner was Mrs. N.L. Baldwin.

The first harness-maker was M. Hendricks who began business in 1869.

The first barber shop was opened by James Rush in 1871.

The first railroad into Rock Falls was built in 1871.

The first newspaper in Rock Falls was the Rock Falls Progress which commenced publication in 1870. Cadwell and Tuttle, owners. James Scott was the first attorney, beginning practice here in 1872.

Julius Smith also opened the first furniture store in 1872.

The first band was the cornet band, organized in 1872, with 12 members. Mr. John Kadel was their leader. Wm. and Peter Kadel were also members.

The first bank was established in 1874 by Ephraim Brookfield. Samuel Schultz was the first shoemaker in 1872.

R.H. Sheldon and son were the first agricultural implement dealers, 1874.

Augustus P. Smith was the first real estate dealer.

In 1874, the first trip by the White Swan Ferry was made.

The first free bridge between Rock Falls and Sterling was built in 1878.

The first lodge was the Ancient Order of United Workmen, Industrial Lodge #5. It was instituted on June 12th, 1875 and Truman Culver was the Master Workman.

The first fire department was the Keystone Hose Company, organized in July of 1876.

The first electric light plant was begun in 1895. The first light customer was in the building where Wheelocks now stands. This was also the first revenue of the company.

The first new car dealer was Samuel Frank. He sold Fords. The first park was given by Abner Merrill and is now known as Veterans Memorial Park.

The first pavement was made in 1905; 1st to 4th Avenues on West Second Street.

REMINISCENCE OF C.A. SMITH

Charles Allen

Charles Allen and his wife Agnes lived at 205 Dixon Avenue for many years. He was retired and a veteran of the Civil War. They celebrated their 65th anniversary. The following year, both of them died, he at the age of 93, and she at 88.

Lewis B. Ward

311 Dixon Avenue was the home of Lewis B. Ward, a retired farmer. He and his wife lived there until around 1915, when they both passed away, being close to 90 years old. Their son, Clarence A. Ward and his wife lived on their farm at Stone Station. She died in her 80's. Clarence drove to California at the age of 86 and lived there until his death at about the age of 90.

Warren T. Burdick

Many of the brick houses of our city were built by Warren T. Burdick, a brick mason and cement contractor. He lived on West Second Street - the brick house now occupied by Wayne Cleveland, a high school teacher.

Charles Burdick

Charles, the brother of Warren, was also a cement and plastering contractor. He lived at 506 Seventh Avenue for many years.

Andrew S. Goodell

"Goodell Court" was named after the Andrew S. Goodell's, who lived at 311 E. Fourth Street. In his day, there was no inside plumbing or modern conveniences of any kind. They had a cistern for rain water and a driven well with an iron pump for their cooking and drinking water. When this house was built in the "wilderness", the well was driven and somehow overlapped about four feet onto the adjoining lot. When this lot was sold in 1912, Goodell was quite concerned about the buyer preventing his use of the pump. He was assured it wouldn't happen. Their house was sold several years after he and his wife passed away.

Samuel H. Figeley

Samuel Figeley resided at 309 E. Third Street. He had been a salesman and traveled extensively. In 1933 he was elected mayor of Rock Falls and served until 1945. He was then associated with the Weeks Coal Co. of Sterling.

Sam was a Spanish War Veteran of 1898. He passed away in 1950 at the age of 76.

Ed Adams

405 Second Avenue was the home of the Ed Adams family. He was employed as a clerk in the Wm. Sowles Grocery Store. Ed passed away in 1927 at the age of 71.

Gus Hansen

Gus Hansen was a barber doing business on West Second Street for many years. He was a Spanish War Veteran. After retiring from the barbershop, Gus served as constable and Justice of the Peace in his home at 702 First Avenue until he passed away in 1963 at the age of 93. Gus served our city as mayor from 1931 to 1933, when he was succeeded by Sam Figeley.

Ed Limond

Limond ran a tobacco store and news stand on West Second Street, rolling his cigars by hand from leaf tobacco. He died in 1936 at the age of 89.

O.J. Johnson

Johnson was a rural mail carrier in the horse and buggy days, in the late 90's and early 1900's. He lived at 200 E. Third Street. O.J. used two horses to alternate every other day since the mail route was 25 or 27 miles and quite a drive everyday over dirt roads that were often impassible in the spring.

This site was sold to Mr. Geyer who started the Geyer Mfg. Plant, which later was sold to "Wood, Shovel and Tool Co.". The plant was closed in 1964. John Dussler, who is the grandson of O.J. Johnson, bought the building in 1966. John was born on the very location of the building he purchased.

Lars Peter Jensen

Of Danish descent, Jensen was a carpenter by trade and general contractor. He resided at West Second Street and 10th Avenue. His workshop and planing mill were next door, his machinery being powered by a large gasoline engine.

Jensen was the contractor for the Fourth Street Methodist Church in Sterling. (P.T. VanHorn was the architect.) He also erected several of the fine homes, among them a large two story residence for N.G. Van Sant, an attorney at 601 Second Avenue, Sterling. The building is now owned and occupied by Attorney Robert W. Besse. Around 1927, Jensen sold his shop and business to Ben Brainerd and moved to Third Avenue and First Avenue, the present Wheelock-Allen Funeral Home.

Joseph O. Wagley

Wagley was a Civil War Veteran. His home was at 412 E. Fifth St. He lived 92 years in our city, and was respected and admired by everyone. He passed away in 1930.

Harry Moates

Moates had a furniture repair shop in the basement beneath the Stone Insurance Agency on Second Avenue. He was one of the three founders of the Coloma Park District, along with Jacob Cantlin as president and Charles A. Smith as secretary-treasurer. He was present at the joint park meeting with Sterling Park members, over the operation of Lawrence Park, which is in Coloma Township. Harry died in 1938 at the age of 72.

Porter G. Kelsey

Porter lived at 302 Second Avenue. He operated a harness shop on West Second Street in the late 80's. Later, his son William joined the business. In the early 1900's, he erected a large double house across the street from his residence. In recent years, the site has been purchased by the Rock Falls Bank and demolished to make room for a parking lot.

M.T. Mouk

Mouk lived at 808 W. Second Street. He was in partnership with James Hatch in 1910. Together they manufactured cement blocks from their factory which was located on the river bank at 12th Avenue, where the Rock Falls High School parking lot now stands.

Mouk built several homes on LeRoy Avenue. All were made of blocks of huge dimension, such as 8"x8"x24". Later years regulated the size to 8"x8"x16". On the corner at 800 LeRoy Avenue, Mouk erected a three apartment building, which is now owned by Lee C. Wilkens. The business block at East Second St. and First Avenue was erected by Frank W. Wheeler and was made from Mouk's larger size block. The partnership dissolved after a few years, and the business collapsed.

John Pippert, Sr.

A meat and butcher shop was operated by Pippert and his four sons at West Second Street and Third Avenue. Henry was store operator, Charles was farm manager of Rock Falls, William was a Canadian farmer, and John Jr. was a salesman for a Chicago Packing Co.

At their farm in Montmorency, they fed and fattened many fine steers for their own business and the Chicago markets. All four sons have passed away. John Pippert Sr. passed away in 1919 at the age of 72.

A.L. Coe

A.L. Coe was an auctioneer and livestock buyer. He went into partnership with Charles Pippert under the name of "Coe and Pippert". They shipped many cars of cattle and hogs to Chicago from the yards at the C.B. & Q. depot in Rock Falls. Hogs were sometimes hauled by team and wagon. Coe lived at 308 E. Second St.

Ross Smith

Ross Smith and Fred Grater formed a partnership and started a coal business located on West Second Street (now owned and operated by Joe Rubin and Sons). Smith purchased the ground from J.V. McCarty. The coal business lasted for several years. Then Smith joined Fred Geyer in the manufacturing of garden utensils. They began the Geyer Mfg. Co., building a factory a block long between East Third and East Fourth St., across from the C.B. & Q. depot. Smith lived at 1000 West Second Street.

A.C. Stanley

A.C. Stanley, mayor from 1913 to 1915, came to Rock Falls from Aurora. He had been employed there by the C.B. & Q. Railroad in the car department. After moving here around 1873, he became a carpenter, building and selling coffins at the coffin factory for 9 years. For the next 35 years, he established a grocery store in the 100 block on West Second Street. In the latter years, he was helped by his sons, Earl and Walter. Eli Gudeman bought the store and continued in the business, which was in a wood frame building. In the late 80's, it was moved to the east side of First Avenue, now owned by Ray Hughes and known as Ray's Garden Shop. On the same site, Stanley erected a 3 story building, the upper floors being a hotel, and the lower one housing a dining room that served meals for 25-35 cents. It was operated by Jule Whitney.

Stanley was foreman of the wood department at International Harvester Co. His family lived at 300 East Third Street. Today, his youngest son Howard operates a coal business in Sterling. Stanley was an ardent worker and committeeman for the Corn Carnivals which originated around 1910.

Elmer E. Teach

Teach was a blacksmith by trade. His shop was located at West Second Street and Fourth Avenue, across from the City Hall. His home was at 100 Galt Avenue.

Ben Teach and Robert Braeken also did blacksmith work from the shop at 306 West Second Street.

Thomas Worman

Worman operated a shoe store on West Second Street for several years. He lived on East Third Street. Thomas was a Civil War Veteran. He died about 1909, at the age of 82.

Charles LaShelle

LaShelle operated a team and wagon delivery service for the merchants, hauling all goods from the depot to their place of business. In those days, all shipments came by rail, regardless of their origin. LaShelle was a Civil War Veteran. He died in 1913 at the age of 97.

M.L. Washburn

Washburn operated a grocery store on West Second Street from the 1880's until his death in 1929, when he was 78. He was of the old school and stuck with the old ideas, always having time for a practical joke.

In the days of the Corn Carnival, he placed in his store window, a half dozen coconuts and fixed them up to imitate and look like some of his fellow merchants, with their names, such as L.P. McMillen, T.J. Wylie, Wm. Sowles, Sr., Dr. F.J. Scott, Wm. Stone or F.H. Geyer, merely for a joke. The town got much enjoyment from his wit.



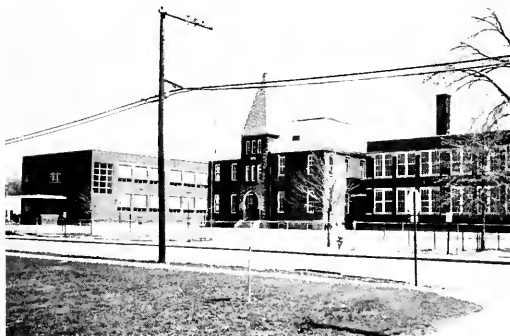
Old Merrill School Building on left - now replaced.

ROCK FALLS SCHOOLS

The first permanent settlement in Coloma Township was made by Isaac Merrill and Edward Atkins early in 1837. Coloma's first school was taught in 1845 by Anastascia Sturtevant.

Classes were first held in an old store building in Rapids City, as Rock Falls was then known. The next year, the people agreed to pay L.H. Woodworth twenty dollars for a twelve by twelve frame building originally built for storing corn. Mr. Woodworth was to be paid in produce. This building served as a school house until 1854, having been moved to the location of the present East Coloma School.

The city of Rock Falls had its beginning in 1867. The first school was held in a brick building located on First Avenue, where the Decker building now stands. Then it was moved to the present site of the Merrill School. It was moved about 1880 to the corner of Second Street and Fourth Avenue, where it was used as a municipal building until 1965 when it was demolished.



Merrill School

Two frame buildings were erected on the present site of Merrill School before the first brick building was erected in 1888. This brick building contained eight rooms. By this time, enrollment had reached three hundred students under the leadership of B. F. Hendricks. Mr. M. F. McAllister was custodian.

The following teachers were mentioned as serving the Rock Falls Schools during this period of its history. Mr. Harris C. Parks, C. D. Glenn, A. D. Tyson, Fayette Johnson, Miss M. Howland, Mr. Woodbridge and Harry A. Smith.

In 1895, the annex was built connecting with the building built in 1888. This building was used as a high school. The teachers for this year were as follows: Prof. O. E. Phares, Superintendent; E. L. Davis, Principal, Miss Smith and Miss Myrtle Shaffer.

Grade teachers were: Jedd Landwere, Marion Leydig, Miss Nellie Jacobs, Miss Lulu Miller, Miss Orner, Miss Mabel Treasher, Miss Clara Gilbert, Miss Bessie McNeil, Mrs. Nellie Halstead, Miss Muriel Price, singing teacher.

The annex and the brick building were connected by a fire escape which the children used to cross from building to building. This building was demolished in 1953 to make room for the extension of the new Junior High School on South Merrill.



High School

The new high school building on West Second Street was completed in 1921. Since that time, two new additions have been added. One of these additions was in 1941. Since 1880, when six students comprised the first graduating class to now, with over two hundred twenty-five graduates annually, Rock Falls Township High School has become a big institution of learning. The principal of the school is Forest L. Tabor.

We should not fail to mention that the old Christian Church was the high school for a few years prior to moving to the new structure on West Second Street in 1920.

Maybe some of you Rock Falls alumni, young and old, remember these men: Harry A. Smith, W.R. Kirk, B.F. Hendricks, Prof. Haney, O.E. Phares, C.R. Holsinger, J.B. Wallace, R.M. Robertson, L.S. Chamberlain and Carl Thokey. All of these men were at one time principals of Rock Falls High School. Mr. Forest Tabor has been the present principal since 1950.

In the early nineteen hundreds, while A.A. Thome was mayor, a need for a school was apparent in the east end of town. In 1913, Thome School was built. It consisted of three rooms. As the population increased, additional space was needed. In 1949, an addition of nine classrooms, office and gymnasium were attached to the original structure. Today, Thome School enrollment averages four hundred thirty students. Every available nook and corner is used to give these students the benefits of modern education. The principal at Thome School since 1957 is Werdell Clark who is retiring this year.



Thome School

Now we shall go west to Merrill School again. Rock Falls was in the midst of a population spurt in the nineteen thirties and forties. Present facilities were overtaxed so a separate building was built east of the old high school. This building, known as South Merrill, was completed in 1939. The principal of Merrill School is Donald Stevens.

Again students outnumbered facilities, so old East Merrill, formerly part of the old high school, was razed to make room for a junior high school.

South Merrill was joined to the north and south by additions to make the new Rock Falls Junior High School. Recently, the new gymnasium was attached to the new Junior High School building. The Junior High was dedicated in 1955. The principal is Dwayne W. Ettinger.

During the nineteen hundred fifties, Rock Falls had a building boom to the south across Route 30.

Dillon School was built in 1952. Again this building became too small for existing conditions, so in 1958, and again in 1963, additions had to be added to accommodate the influx of new students. Dillon School has an average enrollment of six hundred fifty students. The principal at Dillon School is Mr. Kenneth Glover.

Many old timers may remember W.S. Dimmett as Superintendent. Mr. E.I. Lehr followed Mr. Dimmett and was Superintendent for thirty years. Clark D. Hoot is the present Superintendent.

Mr. Fred Hagerman was custodian of the school for over twenty-eight years, retiring in the late 1950's. He was friend and confidant to countless pupils during that long period of time.

Mrs. (Genevieve) John Vickrey served as a very efficient secretary to the Superintendent of the schools for many years.

Among the many teachers who have served on the faculty of the Rock Falls elementary schools for long periods of time might be listed the following: Miss Beulah Waples, Miss M. Elizabeth Hamilton, Miss Julia Whiteley and Miss Leora Black. Many more might be mentioned, who taught here for ten to twenty years or more.

In addition to the Rock Falls public schools, St. Andrews parish supports a grade school which has been in operation for the past fifteen years. They have been educating boys and girls of our community for service to God and to Country in accordance with the motto over the main entrance to their school building located at 700 10th Avenue. The sisters of Loretto and lay teachers staff the

school with Sister Marietta, S.L. as principal. Three hundred and forty-four boys and girls are currently enrolled in St. Andrews in grades one through eight, with the majority of them coming from Rock Falls. The operation of St. Andrew's school, since it is subsidized by the people of the parish represents a contribution to the Rock Falls community by the parishioners of St. Andrew's annually in excess of \$120,000.

The schools on either end of the township have been growing by leaps and bounds as the community expands beyond the city limits.

The first East Coloma School was a small 12 x 12 building which was moved from Rapids City to a land site donated to the community for a school by Thomas Yeoward. This was in 1846 and the building served as a school for the next eight years. The Yeoward family has had five generations attending this school, and four generations have served on the school boards through the years. In 1854, a brick school house was built and the old building was sold to Thomas Robinson who used it as a residence. In 1906, the old brick school was replaced with a frame building, around which all the new additions have been built. Just this year, the original frame building was demolished.

Some early members of the school boards are familiar names, even today: Burt Emmons, John Emmons, John Rosengren, Frank Brown, Alfred Worthington, John McNeil. The road on the west side of the school being McNeil Road, is named for the McNeil family. Most of the area known as the Yeoward addition is in Montmorency Township.

In 1950, East Coloma School consisted of 125 pupils and a fourth teacher was added to the staff. Now, in 1967, the enrollment is about 400 with a staff of 21 full and part-time teachers, showing the tremendous growth in this area of the township. The principal is Peter Ternetti.

On the west side of the township, we find Riverdale School. Old records of the school were destroyed sometime in the 1930's when someone was "housecleaning", so much of the factual history of the school was lost. However, an old history of the township states that in 1858, there were two schools in the township and undoubtedly one was in the west part. The first school was located about 30 rods from the river about where Route 30 now crosses Rock River. An old atlas of 1877, shows that by that time the school house had been moved to its present location on the corner of the Prophetstown Road and Mitchell Street. It was surrounded by land owned by various members of the Sturtevant family and perhaps the land was donated by them for a school. Miss Emma Sturtevant is known to have been one of the first teachers. Josie Barrett Senseshaugh and Effie Chapin Gaultrap also are among the early teachers.

The first expansion of the school consisted of raising it and putting a basement under it. But it remained just a one-room school until the late 1940's. A new addition was added in 1948 and the enrollment increased from 7 to 77 in the years from 1949 to 1956 when the Allen subdivision was opened. Since that time, eight more class rooms and an all purpose room have been added.

Mrs. Clarence (Beulah) Allen taught the school from 1928 to 1942, believed to be the longest tenure thus far.

In the year 1967, there are 193 pupils and 9 teachers. Delbert O. Dortch is the principal.

A new addition to our school community, in this our centennial year, is the Sauk Valley College. It is a two year Junior College and is located on the banks of the Rock River, midway between Dixon and Sterling. The 150 acre campus site cost \$150,000. The college is being operated in a 200 by 218 foot one-story metal building at the present time. The permanent buildings, when built, will be along the river frontage.

Voters in the college district, of which Rock Falls and Coloma Township are a part, approved a \$3,975,000 bond referendum by a four to one margin February 26, 1966, as the districts share of the building cost.

Sauk Valley College was converted from a cornfield into an operating campus in a five-month period of time, with the first classes started in September of 1966.

When the second year of the college starts in September 1967, it will add an extensive vocational and industrial division. These classes will be held in rented facilities in Rock Falls, which were a part of the old Geyer Manufacturing Company.

The college district is comprised of high school districts of Sterling, Rock Falls, Morrison, Amboy, Tampico, Dixon, Pro-

phetstown, Polo, Ohio, Walnut and part of Franklin Grove.

The beautiful site, which many people thought was too expensive, will keep a good portion of our beautiful Rock River land in the public domain, at a time when so much of our river front is being privately developed and forever lost to the people of the community.

The President of Sauk Valley College is Dr. Edward Sabol. Another addition to our towns educational facilities is the Whiteside Area Vocational Center which will open for classes in September of 1967. It is being built on the campus of Sterling Township High School, but will be for all students of Whiteside County whose high school districts are participating.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Before a city can make any progress, it must have organization, not only politically, but socially also. The people of Rock Falls enjoy taking an active part in their city by joining one or more of the numerous clubs in existence. These organizations, clubs, or chapters, not only benefit those who belong to them, but also aid many other citizens by giving to various civic funds, taking projects upon themselves that improve the community and offering individual awards to those members of the community who are deserving. Through the work of such groups, the poor have happy holidays, the intelligent student receives a scholarship, or the city takes an active part in national drives. We owe much to the following groups. Without them, our city couldn't have progressed as far as it has, and with their help, will move on into the future.

ROCK FALLS ROYAL NEIGHBORS

The Rock Falls Royal Neighbors were organized at a meeting called by J.B. Kearns on December 21, 1891, in the Hall of the Modern Woodman of America. J.W. White was appointed Secretary for the evening.

The petition for the Charter was read and the following names were read: J.W. White, A.C. Stanley, E.E. Horner, Ella Horner, T.E. Irwin, J.V. McCarty, Mary McCarty, Samuel Grosse, Erella Grosse, G.F. Moulton, Ida Moulton, Ira G. Berry, Henry Hein, Carrie Hein, J.K. Williams, Alice Eiteman, Anna McFalls, Margaret Kadel, Cynthia Lyle, Mrs. August Beck, Dr. H.M. Rauch, Dr. Ella Franc Merrill. The charter fee was \$1.50.

The obligation was administered and an election was held. Those holding office for the new camp were: Oracle Mary McCarty, Past Oracle Cynthia Lyle, Vice-Oracle Margaret Kadel, Recorder Ella Horner, Receiver Alice Eiteman, Chancellor Lucy Williams, Marshall Anna McFalls, Inner Sentinel Carrie Hein, Board of Managers Cynthia Lyle, Dr. Ella Franc Morrill, Lucy Williams, Dr. H.M. Rauch and Dr. E. Franc Morrill. Dr. Morrill was elected camp physician.

The camp name selected was "Holly" and the first three candidates to be initiated were: Lucinda Kadel, Annie McIlmoyl, and Louise Rubright.

Holly Camp has grown from 23 fraternal charter members to a membership of 242. At present \$261,845 worth of insurance is carried. Fifty year pins have been given to 11 members in the past three years.

The camp has held many activities over the years, including socials and basket suppers. A Juvenile Camp was chartered in October 1926. Marie Adair was the juvenile director and her daughter, Ramona Russell was the first Oracle.

In 1935, all possessions were destroyed when fire burned the McNeil Hall, located at 221-1/2 W. 2nd Street. After the building was remodeled, they continued in that location until 1938, then moving to the Sterling I.O.O.F. Temple.

The Holly Camp assists members in sickness and bereavement, makes donations to the Help to Hear Fund, Cancer Fund, Red Cross and to community projects. Present officers are: Oracle Joyce Warehime, Past Oracle Elva Crabb, Vice Oracle Della Deets, Chancellor Irene Taylor, Recorder Mabel Lutyens, Receiver Marie Adair, Marshal Bernice Wallace, Ass't. Marshal Albina Zivney, Inner Sentinel Marie Nelson, Outer Sentinel Ida Beck, Faith Marietta Kohl, Courage Marguerite Ryan, Unselfishness Gladys Beck, Modesty Irene Schick, Endurance Bertha Schueler, Musician Grace Christensen, Managers Irene Schick, Mildred Southard and Grace Christensen. Camp Physician Dr. Pohly.

ROCK FALLS ROTARY CLUB

On April 22, 1936, a small group of Rock Falls business men formed the nucleus of what was to be Rock Falls' first service club, still in existence. Its organization was made possible by the untiring efforts of its first president, Gene E. Newburn, agricultural instructor from Rock Falls High School and the sponsoring club of Sterling. On June 12, 1936, "Charter Night" was held with a banquet at the Sterling Coliseum, attended by approximately 200 Rotarians and wives, representing most of the 40 clubs of the 40th district. The charter members were: Gene Newburn, President, agricultural education extension; William J. Sowles, Vice President, dry goods; Rev. Reuben M. Furnish, Secretary and Chaplain, Protestantism; Tracey J. Wylie, Treasurer, drugs; Max Hill, Sergeant-at-arms, electrical equipment and supplies; Dr. Stephen A. Allen, Physician and Surgeon; Jacob Cantlin, general law practice; Charles Castle, refined oil products; Robert Harper, life insurance; John Hurdle, hardware; Henry Kaup, milk; W. Wilson King, grain farming; Jess McKinney, grain distributing; Ralph M. Robertson, education high schools; Isador Rubin, scrap iron and steel; Sam Rubin, civil law practice; Ellsworth C. Wolf, groceries. It will be noticed that in a Rotary Club, the membership is formed on the unique plan of having one active and representative man from each line of business and profession in the community. Today "Rotary" is a word that stands for better business practices and loftier ideals in business and professional intercourse, for service to one's community, and for the development of international understanding and peace. The Rock Falls Rotary Club prospered through the years and grew to the present membership of about 50 men. The club celebrated its 25th anniversary at Jul's Danish Farm on September 26, 1961 with eight of the original charter members present: Jacob Cantlin, John Hurdle, Henry Kaup, W. Wilson King, Jess McKinney, Isador Rubin, William Sowles and Ellsworth C. Wolf. At this meeting Jess McKinney was recognized for having 25 years of perfect attendance--either at his own club or another Rotary Club, the latter being accounted as a "make-up". Considering that Rotary Clubs meet every week, this is an unusual accomplishment and Jess is now an honorary member of the club. The 1966-67 officers are Herman Oltman, President; Clark Hoot, Vice-President; Frank Reichardt, Secretary; Glenn Detweiler, Treasurer; John Naylor, Clark Wasson, Orville Harting, Glenn Coleman, Lorin Dillon and Emery McNeil, Directors. Clark Hoot will be the Centennial President, holding office during the 1967-68 Rotary year. The community looks forward to the annual Rotary "Corn-Boil" which has helped finance the annual contribution of \$1,000 for six years, to the Rock Falls Community-Youth Building. Other community activities in which Rock Falls Rotary Club has contributed are: Sponsoring a Little League Baseball team and providing their uniforms, High School and Sauk Valley Scholarships, Christmas gifts for the aged at Whiteside County Home, Veteran's Memorial Band Shell, Boy's State, Prom-Parents, United Church Women Thanksgiving Fellowship, Retarded Children Bus Fund, Self-Help Enterprises, Community Chest, trash cans in the business district to help keep our city clean and Rock Falls Centennial Fund.

As Rock Falls moves on into the future, the Rock Falls Rotary Club will be helping taking its part in any of the activities, where it is needed.

ROCK FALLS WOMAN'S CLUB

The Rock Falls Woman's Club was organized in 1911 with Mrs. Francis K. Andrews the first president. The Rock Falls Club is a member of the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs and also of the General Federation of Women's Clubs which is the largest women's organization in the world.

This is a service club which does a great deal of work locally as well as supporting projects of the Federation. Some of the services provided locally are scholarships for music, conservation, art and nursing. Donations for Community Chest, American Cancer, United Church Women, International Fellowship, Self-Help Enterprises, Cerebral Palsy, picnic for retarded children from Dixon State School, Heart Fund and numerous smaller projects are their yearly activities. Money is also sent for the Illinois Cottage for Girls, Lincoln Lodge at Boys Town of Illinois and Care. Many of the club members do other volunteer work in the community.

In 1961, the Rock Falls Woman's Club celebrated their 50th anniversary and many lovely programs, teas and luncheons were presented during the year. Mrs. James Sensenbaugh was the only living charter member at that time. She passed away September 1, 1966. Many past presidents and members of previous years attended the anniversary program presented in April 1961.

The garden department of the Rock Falls Woman's Club was organized by Mrs. Nettie Libby. At her death, the Woman's Club and the garden department shared in her estate. By using the interest, they have been able to provide many things in the community.

Other departments of the Woman's Club are Public Affairs, Home Life, International Affairs, Fine Arts and Education.

The Woman's Club meetings are the second Tuesday each month with the garden department meeting the third Tuesday and the other combined department meetings the fourth Tuesday.

The club president for the year 1966-67 is Mrs. Wm. Montgomery.

ROCK FALLS AMERICAN LEGION POST #902

September 6, 1945, a temporary charter was granted to the Rock Falls American Legion Post #902. This was secured by James Burke, Earl Wolfe and Fred Alexander. The permanent charter was granted in 1947.

The first installation of officers in 1945 was held in the Odd Fellows hall in Rock Falls when James Burke was elected as the first commander of the Legion Post #902.

Meetings were held at various places such as Commander Burke's garage until cold weather forced them to move to the Masonic Temple. At this time, it was decided that a permanent building was needed and ground was purchased at 412 4th Avenue, where the building was erected in 1946. This was accomplished with the assistance of private business men and legionaires. In 1956 an addition was added on to the front which is now the present cement block building.

The officers for 1967 are: Commander Marion Franks; Senior Vice-Commander John Myers; Junior Vice-Commander Aaron Knox; Finance Officer Marion Genkinger; Adjutant James Chapman.

Many community projects are helped by the American Legionaires each year. They sponsor a Boy Scout troop and Little League ball team; send boys to Boys State, give scholarships, recognize outstanding students in Rock Falls and Newman High Schools, give to child welfare, contribute to Veterans Rehabilitation, send packages to Viet Nam and help support a cottage for under-privileged children at Normal, Illinois.

ADVANCE LODGE #590 I.O.O.F.

The Advance Lodge #590 I.O.O.F. was granted a charter October 13, 1875 and has been active in Rock Falls ever since. Among the early leaders of the organization were A.C. Stanley, Sol Kern, C.E. Payson, Theodore P. Lukens and J.H. Montague.

The lodge is a fraternal, non-sectarian, non-partisan, non-political and non-profit organization which does much charitable work each year. One of the finest accomplishments was the establishment of the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in 1883, which is located on the east edge of the city and has been enlarged several times. In 1888, the members of the lodge met with their wives and daughters and organized the Rebekah Lodge.

Officers of Lodge #590 for 1967 are Melvin Scholdt, Noble Grand; John J. Schick, Vice-Grand; Art Nelson, Secretary; Glenn Detweiler, Treasurer; John T. Schick, Custodian of the Cemetery.

THE KING'S DAUGHTERS AND SONS ORGANIZATION

July 26, 1888, several women met in the home of Miss Kate Ramsey in North Hume and organized the Good Deed Circle of the Kings Daughters and Sons Organization. The charter members were: Mrs. Jane Barrett, Mrs. Leona Wetzel, Mrs. Pantha Schick, Mrs. Van Sant, Mrs. Almira Brimmer, Ella and Anna Gaulrapp, May Fluck, Rena Wetzell, Mrs. Luch Ramsey and Elizabeth and Kate Ramsey. In 1963, they celebrated their 75th anniversary.

From this beginning, other circles have been formed and at the present time there are seven in Whiteside County with a membership of 105. The active circles are: Good Deed, Good Samaritan, Golden Purpose, Silver Cross, Loyal, Busy Hand and Good Cheer.

The 1967 County officers for the Kings Daughters are: Mrs. Earl George, President; Mrs. Earl Eshleman, Vice-President; Mrs. Lawrence Wesner, 2nd Vice-President; Mrs. Tom Zeigler, Secretary and Mrs. M.R. Kimmel, Treasurer.

The Kings Daughters and Sons are an International organization which does considerable philanthropic work.

ROCK FALLS LODGE #936 A.F. & A.M.

The Grand Lodge granted a charter October 11, 1911 and Rock Falls Lodge #936 came into being with leadership under the first Worshipful Master Fred H. Geyer, Senior Warden L.P. McMillen, Junior Warden E.O. Phares. Lee L. Emmons of Jim Falls, Wisconsin is the only living charter member.

The first lodge hall was located in the Trager building located at the corner of First Avenue and E. Second Street for fifty-one years. Since 1962, the lodge hall has been in the former International Harvester building at 201 W. First Street after the organization purchased and renovated the building.

The lodge is a fraternal organization for men who are worthy to become members by petition for fellowship. Free Masonry is an organization of men believing in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, using builders tools as symbols to teach basic moral truths, thereby impressing upon the minds of its members the cardinal virtues of brotherly love, relief and truth which they should apply to everyday activities. Man does not live by bread alone, but has need for the old fashioned virtues.

The lodge has many worthwhile projects and helps maintain the children's home at LaGrange, the old folks home at Sullivan and numerous Masonic hospitals throughout the state.

Officers for 1967 are: Worshipful Master Victor Hart, Senior Warden Willard Baldwin, Junior Warden Harry Smith, Treasurer Elmer McNinch, Secretary Wilbur McNinch, Senior Deacon Wm. Wolber, Junior Deacon Virgil Jennings, Senior Stewart Arthur Folkers, Junior Stewart Everett Poff, Tyler James Mathis, Marshall Darrell Stevens and Chaplain Winifred Baker.

ROCK FALLS CHAPTER #706 OES

The Rock Falls Chapter of the Eastern Star was organized late in 1911 and was granted a charter by the Grand Chapter of Illinois on January 26, 1912. The first officers of the organization were: Anna Jensen, Worthy Matron; T.J. Wylie, Worthy Patron; Belle Woodward, Associate Matron; Lura Trager, Secretary and Lulu Geyer, Treasurer. Other officers included Nellie Stone, Bertha Wylie, Marion Leydig, Mary Limerick, Amanda Taylor, Florence Stanley, Frances Andrews, Agnes Allen, E.U. Taylor and Emma Murray. Mrs. Bertha Wylie is the only living charter member. The majority of the Deputy Grand Officers for instituting the Rock Falls Chapter were members of the Sterling Chapter.

The chapter celebrated its 50th anniversary in September of 1962 at Past Officer's Night. At this meeting Clara Ashling and Elmer Leusby served as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron.

Officers for 1967 are: Margaret Truedson, Worthy Matron; Kenneth Truedson, Worthy Patron; Vera Sayers, Associate Matron; Earl Sayers, Associate Patron; Marion Smith, Secretary and Ruby Morrow, Treasurer. Other officers are: Ruth Carter, Linda Smith, Minerva Hagberg; Catheryn Ebenezer, Betty Pratt, Bess Schoaf, Ollie Lowrie, Olive Scheider, Vera Brainerd, Lou Ettinger, Eleanor Smith, Harry Smith and Mildred Smith.

The Past Matrons Club of the Chapter was organized in 1958, meeting four times a year in the homes of the Past Matrons. The chapter members also enjoy the social meetings of its Social Club which meets each month.

P.E.O. CHAPTER CC

Chapter CC of the P.E.O. Sisterhood was organized in Rock Falls, January 9, 1926. The charter members were: Francis E. Potter, Helen L. Church, Bertha M. Yackel, Sara H. Vanbil, Merle Golder, Norma Riehl, Laura Scott, Theo H. Bristol, Virginia Kadel, Claribel Stephenson, Lois Dimmitt and Irene Rauch.

The local chapter is a member of an international organization whose purposes are educational and charitable.

Through the Sisterhood, Chapter CC aids in the support of a revolving educational fund which has aided almost 14,000 women in completing their education. An International Peace Scholarships

program enables students from foreign countries to complete their education in the United States.

Cotter Junior College at Nevada, Mo. has been owned and supported by the Sisterhood since 1927, and the Illinois Chapter owns and maintains a P.E.O. Home in Knoxville, Illinois.

The 1966-67 officers are: Pauline Howe, President; Mary Baker, Vice-President; Vella Fadden, Rec. Secretary; Dorothy Winkler, Cor. Secretary; Sue Brown, Treasurer; Ruth Walton, Chaplain and Helen Manges, Guard.

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES AUXILIARY

The Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary was instituted in March 1950 and just recently celebrated its 17th anniversary. Mrs. Myrtle Massingill Knape was the first Mdm. President and charter member. Janet Fairbanks, now deceased, was the first Junior Past Mdm. President. The auxiliary was instituted with fifty-one charter members.

The members of the auxiliary donate to many worthwhile projects such as Cancer Foundation, Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy and their own Memorial Foundation, which provides funds for needs of fatherless children across the country. Projects throughout the year provide funds to help the needy at Christmas time and gifts for the men and women at Whiteside County Nursing Home.

The officers for 1967 are: Mdm. President Mrs. R.D. (Lucille) Dale; Vice-President Mrs. Chester (Margaret) Holsington; Secretary Mrs. J.S. (Bernice) Pence and Treasurer Mrs. Clifford (Louisa) Yell.

ROCK FALLS EAGLES

The Eagles Lodge, Aerie 2783 was organized March 7, 1948. Louis J. Pignatelli was the first president. The Eagles own their own club rooms, located at 321 West 2nd Street, Rock Falls.

Among the projects which are supported by the Eagles are the "Max Baer Heart Fund", and the Damon Runyan Cancer Fund, to which the organization of Eagles has been one of the largest contributors. They have an educational workshop for foreign countries, support the Father Cassidy "Home on the Range" for boys and have a retirement village known as "Eagle Village" at Bradenton, Florida.

At the local level, Eagles support the community with donations to the Community-Youth Building and help with any civic project in which they are needed.

The president for the 1967-68 year is John Waisner.

This past season the Rock Falls Eagles have been host to the Illinois State Bowling Tournament, which brought some 27 bowling teams to our community.

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 902

The Rock Falls American Legion Auxiliary Unit #902 was chartered as an Auxiliary Unit to the Rock Falls American Legion Post on January 24th, 1946. There were 24 members on the original charter. Rock Falls Unit 902 is located in Whiteside County of the 13th District and the 2nd Division of the State of Illinois American Legion Auxiliary. The first Unit president was Mrs. Merle C. Wolf, who served as president of the charter year of 1946. She was re-elected to serve in 1947 and 1951. Mrs. Wolf and other ladies of the community saw a need after World War II for an auxiliary unit in Rock Falls and therefore set out to charter a unit through the Department of Illinois and the National American Legion Auxiliary Organization. The unit is made up of a senior membership and a junior membership. Junior members are those signed into membership from birth to 18 years of age. Elective officers of the Unit are president, first vice-president, 2nd vice president, treasurer, chaplain, historian and sergeant-at-arms, with the appointment of a secretary, assistant sergeant-at-arms and chairman of committees.

The Unit was formed for the purpose of aiding the American Legion in carrying out the great programs to which the American Legion is dedicated, plus special programs carried out to aid the community, state and nation. One of the main projects of the American Legion Auxiliary is the great task of caring for the disabled Veterans of the Wars who are hospitalized and assisting them to regain their place in life, through the rehabilitation programs. The

major projects of an auxiliary unit to which Rock Falls Unit 902 works towards are Americanism, Child Welfare, Civil Defense, Emergency Planning, Community Service, Education and Scholarships, Foreign Relations, Girls State, Junior Activities, Legislative, National Security, Poppy Sales and Rehabilitation Program.

The officers for 1967 are: President Mrs. Wm. Mills (Alice); 1st Vice-President Mrs. Marvin (Marilyn) Beck; 2nd Vice-President Mrs. Quinten (Arletta) Harms; Secretary Mrs. Willis (Jean) Ahrens; Treasurer Mrs. Walter (Dolores) Hoerle; Chaplain Mrs. Donald (Maxine) Geiger; Historian Mrs. Marion (Barbara) Franks; Sergeant-at-arms Mrs. John (Doris) Olson. The 13th District Historian Mrs. Lee F. Wolfe, is also from Rock Falls.

JOHN H. MONTAGUE REBEKAH LODGE NO. 202

A number of the members of Advance Lodge No. 590 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Rock Falls, met with their wives and daughters on February 13, 1888, to receive the Rebekah Degree.

Brother B. Gurtizin conferred the Degree on Brothers Warren Cole, John A. Roe, E.W. Slater, John Isherwood, H.P. Price, J.D. Montague and on Mrs. Ellen Burdick, Mrs. Nettie Cole, Mrs. Lizzie Rae, Mrs. Ella Slater, Miss M.F. Price, Mrs. Mary Isherwood and Mrs. Whitney.

A charter was granted February 27, 1888. Mr. Charles Bent of Morrison, instituted the lodge with assistance of members from Morrison and Sterling.

Grand Noble Mrs. Nettie Cole, Vice Grand Mrs. Belle Worman, Recording Secretary Mrs. Lizzie Rae, Financial Secretary Mrs. Mary Isherwood, Treasurer Mrs. Ellen Burdick.

The lodge meets the second and fourth Monday nights of each month. The Rebekah Lodge is a fraternal order and like the Advance Lodge, is non-sectarian, non-partisan, non-political and non-profit. It follows the teachings of Friendship, Love and Truth. The Lodge helps support Old Folks Home, Children's Homes, Odd Fellows, World Eye Bank and Visual Research Foundation. They participate in the United Nation Pilgrimage for Youth Tours, when students from every state of the United States and Canada spend one week in New York studying the United Nations.

Locally they support the community fund drives and local projects such as Red Cross, Heart Fund, Cancer, etc.

The 1967 officers are: Grand Noble Mrs. John Sprankle, Vice-Grand Mrs. Helen Willhite, Recording Secretary Mrs. Troy Baker, Financial Secretary Mrs. Harry Insley and Treasurer Mrs. Glenn Detweiler.

GIRL SCOUTING

Girl Scouting has a thirty year history in Rock Falls, beginning in 1936 when Miss Elizabeth Hamilton and Miss Isabel Johnston organized an Intermediate troop at Merrill School.

In 1943, Mrs. M.L. Skelton (Dee) started a Brownie Troop at Thome School for girls ages 7 to 10 years. She was assisted by Mrs. Floyd Humphrey (Harriet) and later by Mrs. Harvey Englehardt (Rose). By 1945, several other Brownie Troops were organized and another Intermediate troop.

With the growth of scouting in Rock Falls, it was deemed necessary to have a Rock Falls Council. This was formed in 1946. Mrs. M.L. Skelton was the first president; Werdell Clark, Vice-President; Samuel Rubin, Finance Chairman; Mrs. F.F. (Fern) Morrison, Secretary; Otis J. Humphrey, Treasurer, Elmer Leusby was organization chairman; Mrs. Mervin (Marian) McNinch, Program Chairman; Clare Hayward, Registrar; Jack Adair, Publicity; Mrs. James Kelsey (Clareta), Chairman of the nominating committee.

The first Day Camp was held in 1945 at Sinnissippi Park, when the Rock Falls Council joined with the Sterling Council and hired Mrs. Carretta Younglove of Clinton as the camp director.

In 1947, the Rock Falls Girl Scouts invited Tampico Scouts to join them in camping on the Glenn Schutt farm. Mrs. Leo Nelson and Mrs. Vernie Anderson of Rockford were the directors.

Following this, the Council rented the Sterling Scout Camp for several years. They also did camping at Sinnissippi Park, several years.

Many community projects were sponsored by the troops. Trees were planted at Nims Park near the canal. In 1947 and 1948, they conducted many drives to collect grease to help relieve the soap

shortage. Many waste paper collections were held. The money derived from these projects was divided among the troops. The immediate troops sold oranges as a community activity, with the money being contributed to the March of Dimes campaign.

The troops have delivered Cancer posters, sold TB seals, presented Christmas wreaths to various churches and sang carols around the community Christmas tree. They have sold Girl Scout cookies and calendars to make money for their own troop. At the present time, some are doing community work at the hospital once a month. Their activities have traditionally been numerous over the years.

The girls entertained their fathers at Father-Daughter banquets and later were hostesses to their mothers at teas.

In 1963, the Rock Falls Girl Scouts disbanded their Council and joined the Green Hills Council of Girl Scouts, Inc. They are now in the Singing Meadows Neighborhood, which includes Rock Falls and Sterling.

ROCK FALLS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

In 1945, a group of interested, future-looking men, organized into a group known as the Rock Falls Business Association. It was felt that an organization of this kind was needed for the purpose of gaining community spirit in Rock Falls.

The first regular meeting was held in January with Otis Humphrey being elected President. Joe Sullivan, Vice-President; Henry Kaup, Secretary; N.L. Mowrer, Treasurer. Directors elected were: Jack Adair, W.J. Sowles, Al Hoffmiller, Fay Overley, William Hines, Max Hill and Leonard Gartner.

One of the first needs of the community they felt, was to get a bank started in Rock Falls. They lost no time in getting this project going and November 25, 1945, the National Bank opened in Rock Falls.

In April of 1946, the first Rock Falls Business Association Minstrel Show was held at the Merrill School. This began an annual event for the next ten years, with the proceeds of these shows being put into a special building fund. This fund formed the nucleus for the Community Youth Building which was dedicated in April of 1967.

In August of 1946, the Business Association was instrumental in backing the Rock Falls Township High School Board in obtaining the piece of property which is now known as "Hinders Field", and used as the High School Athletic Field. This property belonging to the Barrets was procured knowing it was to be used for a Civic Purpose, therefore they were willing to sell to the High School Board. The Business Association paid for laying out the plans for the field.

Other plans that were laid by this group, however, not completed by them, but which have been completed since their time, includes the Whiteside County Airport south of Rock Falls.

The purchasing of a piece of property on Eighth Avenue, which was used for a time for a park, and later deeded to the city of Rock Falls so the deeds could be sent to Springfield, showing Rock Falls had a piece of property on which to build the Illinois National Guard Armory which is now on this piece of land.

The Business Association during its existence, started a Civic Fund in Rock Falls which provided funds for the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Good Fellows, Youth Council and Community Building. The Civic Fund was later joined with the Community Chest Program and is today part of the Community Chest with portions of the funds coming to the Rock Falls side of the river.

A Youth Council was formed in 1946, which worked with the grade and high school students at that time. Part of the activities of the Youth Council were hobby clubs and teen-dances which were held in the Rock Falls American Legion Home. The Youth Council continued to direct youth activities in Rock Falls, sponsoring Senior High School Banquets, Parades, May Pole Dances, etc., until about 1951.

The work of the Youth Council since has been taken over by Orvel Howard and the Illinois Youth Commission.

The Rock Falls Business Association, members incorporated into the membership of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce, and the Chamber, now has become the head of the community's active community spirit.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In 1956, the Rock Falls Business Association ceased to function and a group of 26 business men met in the basement of a local business for the purpose of organizing a Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce.

On September 18, 1956, the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce was incorporated and also on that date received its charter from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The first Chamber office was located in the Illinois Kitchen Center, located at 813 First Avenue, operated by Mr. F.F. Morrison. Mrs. Fern Morrison was appointed as part time secretary. After several years in this location, the Illinois Kitchen Center moved to 217 First Avenue and the Chamber moved with it.

On September 1, 1962, Mrs. Morrison resigned and at that time the organization had grown to 100 paying members.

On September 1, 1962, Mr. Lewis J. Walker was hired as the first full time Chamber of Commerce executive, and the office was moved to new quarters over the S & K Clothing Store. During these past six years, the Chamber of Commerce has operated with the Rock Falls name on the Sterling Chamber of Commerce organization. On April 1, 1963, the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce came into its own by securing the removal of their name from the Sterling Chamber.

From 1962 through 1966, the Chamber of Commerce has continued to grow to 200 members. It has now moved into modern up-to-date quarters in the Community-Youth Building in the city. The growth of the Rock Falls Chamber has been slow, but on solid ground. It will be working for Rock Falls in the future.

The history of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce would not be complete without the names of the past presidents. They are: Dwaine Tompkins, 1956-1957; Robert Deitz, 1957-1958; Lowell Wechsler, 1958-1959; Dr. Donald Wilkin, 1959-1960; F.F. Morrison, 1960-1961; Donald Allen, 1961-1962; Orville Thome, 1962-1963; Wm. Nordstrom, 1963-1964; Robert Wilkens, 1964-1965; Arlyn Lawrence, 1965-1966; Robert Stetson, 1966-1967.

The officers of the Chamber for 1967-1968 are: Edward Klocke, President; Rev. E.A. Henrichs, Vice-President; Robert Colborn, Treasurer; Robert Stetson; Ray Moulton; Orville Thome; Robert Wilkens; Kenneth Wike; Wm. Wadelton; Wayne Beelendorf; Arthur Johnson; Henry Hoffman; Quinten Harms; Lewis J. Walker, Executive Director; Irene Taylor, Office Secretary.

LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club was organized in Rock Falls May 18, 1957 with Donald Blodgett as the first president.

The principal object of the Lions Club is "form a group of dedicated men who enjoy fellowship, with their main purpose to help the blind and those with sight defects".

The local club has purchased glasses for those less fortunate than themselves. They have provided dogs for training at the Leader Dog School for the blind in Rochester.

They have donated to the Hadley School for the blind in Winnetka, Illinois. Through the use of these donations, they can send correspondence courses to the blind all over the world.

The Lions Club participates in community and civic betterment. They have donated to the Community-Youth Building, provided picnicbenches for the local parks. This past year, they have purchased bright orange safety jackets for the school patrol children at Dillon School.

They provided a lecturn for the recreation room at Garden Circle Homes. They have sponsored three teenage shows, which were geared to bring entertainment to the city the young people would enjoy. They are in the process of making a donation to the city at Centennial time.

With only sixteen members in the club, they are doing a great deal for the community and they in return, are getting a great deal of satisfaction from this work.

OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF EVENTS

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JULY 28 - 29

"OLD-FASHIONED BARGAIN DAYS"

SATURDAY, JULY 29

CENTENNIAL BALL

Crowning of Centennial Queen
Sammy Kaye Orchestra
Forrest Tobar Gymnasium

SUNDAY, JULY 30

"RELIGIOUS HERITAGE DAY"

Morning Worship Service at all churches
Noon - Homecoming Picnics and Church Open House
1:30 - Antique Car Parade, begins at Disco Faad
3:00 - Water Fight, Fire Dept., Municipal Center Parking Lot
4:00 - Family Bike Tour of Rock Falls
4:00 - Ralph Thome Travelogue "World's Longest Hunting Trip",
Basement Community Building
8:00 - Combined Church Chairs, Interdenominational Religious
Service. Speaker. Hinder's Memorial Field

MONDAY, JULY 31

"PIONEER AND HOMECOMING DAY"

Exhibits (Daily) Historical Museum, Art Exhibit I.O.O.F. Hall
Hospitality Center - Community Building (Daily)
Conservation Show - Old City Hall Parking Lot (Daily)
Saw Mill - Threshing Machine - Baler
(Threshing every hour on the hour - Daily)
9:00 - Centennial Opening Salva Aerial Bombs, Blowing of Whistles,
Ringing Church Bells, etc.
9:15 - Opening Ceremonies at Veteran's Memorial Park
10:00 - Hospitality Center welcomes Sr. Citizens & Farmer Residents
11:00 - Ralph Thome Travelogue in Basement Community Bldg.
12:00 - Mayor's Reception and Luncheon for visiting Dignitaries,
Rock Falls Community Building
1:00 - Opening of Mid-Way and Rides, 12th Ave. Show Grounds
Opening Children's Concessions, Old City Hall Parking Lot
1:30 - Parade - Floats, Bands, Dignitaries
7:30 - Horse Shoe Tournament at Lawrence Park
8:30-11 Street Dance, Rock Falls National Bank Parking Lot

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

"GOVERNOR'S DAY"

Historical Museum, Art Exhibit, Hospitality Center, Conservation
Show, Old and New Farm Equipment Display at Urban Renewal Ground
Saw Mill - Threshing Machine - Baler (Threshing every hour on the hour).
9:00 - Open House and Tour of Community Building
11:00 - Dedication of New Terminal Building for Whiteside County
Airport
12:00 - Governor's Luncheon at Community Building
Service Clubs Open House - Eagles - Legion
1:30 - Governor's Parade
2:30 - Governor receives Pony Express
4:00 - Municipal Band Concert at Veterans Memorial Park
4:00 - Service Club Contests (to be announced)
4:00 - Ralph Thome Travelogue in Basement Community Bldg.
8:00 - Barbershoppers at Hinder's Field
8:30 - Premier performance "Spanning a Century"
Fireworks Display

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

"LADIES DAY"

Historical Museum, Art Exhibit, Hospitality Center, Conservation
Show, Old and New Farm Equipment Display. Saw Mill - Threshing
Machine - Baler.
7 to 9:30 White Callar Girls Breakfast in American Legion Hall
10:30 - Costume Contest at Jr. High School Gym
10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. - Floral, Craft and Hobby Display at Community
Building Auditorium

11:00 - Ralph Thome Travelogue in Community Bldg.
11:30 - Ladies Luncheon in Methodist Church
1:00 - Birthday Cake at Bank Parking Lot
1:30 - Parade of Belles
3:00 - Style Show and Old-Fashion Tea, at Vet. Memorial Park
4:30 - Promenade to downtown
8:30 - Sweet Adelines at Hinder's Field
8:30 - Spectacular "Spanning a Century" - Fireworks

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

"AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY"

Historical Museum, Art Exhibit, Hospitality Center, Conservation
Show, Old and New Farm Equipment Display. Saw Mill - Threshing
Machine - Baler.
Plant Visitations 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Information at DeKalb Feeds
10:00 - Agriculture Display at Urban Renewal Ground
12:00 - Executive Luncheon Agriculture and Industry Community Bldg.
1:30 - Mile Long Parade of Machinery
4:00 - Bicycle Race at Wallingford Park
4:00 - Ralph Thome Travelogue, Community Building
8:00 - Barbershoppers at Hinder's Field
8:30 - Spectacular "Spanning a Century" - Fireworks

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

"SALUTE TO YOUTH"

Historical Museum, Art Exhibit, Hospitality Center, Conservation
Show, Old and New Farm Equipment Display. Saw Mill - Threshing
Machine - Baler.
9:00 - Softball Games at Dillon, Wallingford and Optimist Park and
Rock Falls High School
10:00 - Baby Contest at Community Building
1:30 - Youth Parade beginning at 3rd Ave. and W. 2nd St. past
reviewing stand to Veteran's Memorial Park
2:30 - Field and Sport Events at the Parks
3:30-5 Hot Rod Rally - Driver's Skill Test at Rock Falls High School
4:00 - Ralph Thome Travelogue - Community Building
8:00-11 Square Dance at Armory
9:00-12 Teen Age Dance at Municipal Center Parking Lot
8:00 - Barbershoppers at Hinder's Field
8:30 - Spectacular "Spanning a Century" - Fireworks

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

"VETERANS, ARMED FORCES AND FRATERNAL DAY"

Historical Museum, Art Exhibit, Hospitality Center, Conservation
Show, Old and New Farm Equipment Display. Saw Mill - Threshing
Machine - Baler.
9:00 - First Aid Exhibit at Veteran's Memorial Park
9:00 - Military Displays and Exhibits
10:00 - Row Boat Race on Canal
10:30 - Award to Oldest man and woman with continuous residence in
Rock Falls and award to former resident coming the longest
distance. Community Building
11:00 - Time Capsule to be buried at Riverside Park
Unveiling of Lions Memorial
12:00 - Veteran and Fraternal Luncheon at American Legion
1:30 - Gigantic Parade. Floats - Bands, etc.
4:00 - Ralph Thome Travelogue in Community Building
4:30 - Presenting Awards at Reviewing Stand
6:00 - Beard Elimination at Hinder's Field
7:45 - Beard Judging and Brothers of Brush "Shave-Off"
8:30 - Spectacular "Spanning a Century" - Fireworks

Mid-Way Shows and Children's Concessions open every
afternoon and evening.

Parade Route Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday
Beginning at Industrial Park or on E. 11th Street, down First Avenue
to West 2nd Street to the High School.
Children's Parade starts at 3rd Ave. and W. 2nd St. to Veteran's
Memorial Park.

OFFICERS AND CHAIRMEN
THE ROCK FALLS CENTENNIAL, INC.

President and Active Chairman Orville Thome
Vice President Mrs. John Sumption
Treasurer Frank Reichardt
Secretary Lewis Walker, Jr. and Irene Taylor, Assistant
Headquarters Chairman Frank Stephenson

REVENUE DIVISION - Rondle Weflin
Historical Program - Mrs. Wm. Montgomery
Novelties - Dale Humphrey
Celebration Ball - Susan Minkel & Dr. E. Orval DeWeerth
Concessions - Calvin Margan

PARTICIPATION DIVISION - Men, Vernon Williams
Brothers of the Brush - Robert Wilkens
Men's Hats and Ties - Ross Lennox
Promenade and Caravan - Earl Bennett
Kangaroo Court - Tony Arduini

PARTICIPATION DIVISION - Ladies, Mrs. John Sumption
Celebration Belles - Ethel Degnan
Ladies Sunbonnets - Mrs. Wm. Heide
Promenade and Caravan - Mrs. DuWayne Tompkins
Kangaroo Court - Mrs. Glen Wicks

SPECTACLE TICKET DIVISION - Quinten Harms
Tickets - Gilbert Moothart
Advance Sales - Marcella Ingold
Nominations - Mrs. Alan Chronister
Awards - Mrs. Orville Thome
Arrangements - Pauline Howe
Patrons Tickets - Isadore Rubin
Cashier and Gates - Mrs. Donald Finch
Audience Area - Bruce McDonald

SPECTACLE DIVISION - Floyd Carl and Lee Wolfe
Scenario - Mrs. Frank Reichardt
Cast - Marlene Dykeman
Properties - Ralph Fluck
Construction - John Dussler
Costume and Makeup - Mrs. George Billeaux
Grounds - James Henley

PUBLICITY DIVISION - Wm. Saathoff
Press Release - Linus Stephenson
Distributive - Peter Ternetti

SPECIAL EVENTS DIVISION - Henry Bright and Paul Simpson
Merchants Promotion - Al Klocke
Historical Windows and Museum - DuWayne Tompkins
Parades - Marion Franks
Music - Maurice Russell
Pioneer Events - Lester Chopman
Special Days - Mr. & Mrs. Austin Corzett
Hospitality Center - Clare Hayward
Traffic and Safety - Russell Maynard
Transportation - Gene Stewart
Pony Express - Paul Simpson
Beautification - Mrs. Glenn Pohly

There have, of course, been many, many others serving on all the above named committees. The work of all these 'behind the scenes' people is most necessary and greatly appreciated. Thanks must go to all the volunteer helpers at the Centennial Headquarters under the chairmanship of Mrs. Wm. Heide.

HISTORICAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The members of the non-revenue material committee of the Historical Program were Rev. & Mrs. Donald Ward, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Reichardt, Werdell Clark, Mervin McNinch, Madeleine Nuttall and Walter Stigall. Others assisting in gathering material, editing and typing and otherwise preparing for publication were Forrest Gelsingier, Mrs. Harry Bohms, Mrs. M.L. Skelton, Mrs. Fred Hinrichs, Horry Smith, Earl Forehand, Betty Brown, Charles Smith, Mrs. Herbert Roth, Mr. & Mrs. James Tyne, Ben Jakerst, Joanne Edeus, Wayne Cleveland and Mrs. Lorry Pettenger.

Linus Stephenson was the photographer for new pictures and many of the old pictures were taken by Fred G. Jurgens and Victor Goodrich. Thanks are also due to the many people who loaned history books, scrapbooks, pictures and other items of interest for the book.

The Program Advertising Solicitation Chairman was Robert Thome. The Program Sales Committee Chairman was Ronald Hasselman and the Jay Cee's.

The Official Centennial Seal and the cover of the historical booklet were designed by Verna Ward.

The official centennial colors of green and white was the prize winning suggestion of Mrs. Wm. Heide.

The name for the spectacular "Spinning the Century" was the prize winning suggestion of Mrs. DuWayne Tompkins.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES FOR SPECIAL DAYS

Friday & Saturday, July 28 & 29
"Old Fashioned Bargain Days" Chairman - Al Klocke

Sunday, July 30
"Antique Car Parade" Chairman - Kent Detweiler
"Religious Heritage Days" Chairman - Rev. Henrichs

Monday, July 31
"Pioneer and Homecoming Day" ... Chairman - Mr. & Mrs. Byers Yeager

Tuesday, August 1
"Governor's Day" Chairman - Bruce Winans

Wednesday, August 2
"Ladies Day" Chairman - Margaret Sumption

Thursday, August 3
"Agriculture Day" Chairman - Royal McCormick
"Industry Day" Chairman - Robert Stetson

Friday, August 4
"Youth Days" Chairman - Bruce McDonald

Saturday, August 5
"Veterans, Armed Forces Day" Chairman - Winifred Baker

Every Day
Conservation Exhibit Ed Petrashek & Harry Smith
Parade Marshal, Every Day Marion Franks



CENTENNIAL BELLES CHAPTERS

Name of Chapter	President
Beauty Belles	Mrs. Ed Colville (Joyce)
Becky Belles (Rebekas)	Mrs. Ivan Baker (Fanny)
Belles of St. Andrews	Mrs. Chas. VanWassenhove
Belles of the Lions	Mrs. Walter Hager (Dee)
Belles Top Hat	Mrs. Harold Carolus (Dorothy)
Bowling Bags	Mrs. Sam Mylin (Ollie)
Bonny Belles (Pilot)	Mrs. Elmer Janssen (Ethel)
Bustles and Bows	Mrs. Wayne Spencer (Joan)
Busy Bees (Woman's Club)	Mrs. Gordon Rhyne (Darlene)
Camp Belles	Mrs. James Eshleman (Helen)
Centennial Squares	Mrs. Wm. E. Bennett (Violet)
Centennial Stars (OES)	Mrs. Wm. Ebenezer (Catherine)
Century-Ettes	Mrs. Robert Thome (Judy)
Century Sisters	Mrs. McGinn (Joyce)
Chapel Belles (Congregational Church)	Mrs. Harold Holcomb (Martha)
Chatter and Stitch	Mrs. Edw. O. Cedro (Susie)
Christian Belles (Christian Church)	Mrs. Lester Pierson (Audri)
Church Belles (Immanuel Lutheran)	Mrs. George Polte (Gertrude)
Community Belles (Hospital)	Mrs. Hubert Auman (Shirley)
Country Belles	Mrs. Leroy Genz (Betty)
Ding Dong Down Town Belles	Mrs. Ray Moulton (Ray)
Falling Garter Belles	Mrs. Raymond Kulas (Juanna Lee)
Fancy Garter Queens	Mrs. Don Cole (Shelley)
Feather Duster Belles	Marlene Lewis
Fire Belles (Insurance)	Ann Bonadurer
Frontier Fillies	Mrs. Wm. Wescott (Betty)
Gilded Garters (High School)	Mrs. Larry Chidley (Agnes)
Happy Humers (Woman's Club)	Mrs. Harold Smith (Marion)
Hippy Hips (Thome School)	Mrs. Ellsworth Wolf, Jr. (Katie)
Hustlin Bustles (LDS)	Mrs. Jack Henson (Eunice)
Jr. Litter Bug Patrol Leaders	Mrs. Frank Apple (Mable)
King's Daughter Belles	Mrs. Earl George (Minnie)
Lazy Belles (Woman's Club)	Mrs. Harold Deweiler (Gen)
Lu La Belles	Mrs. Clark Hoat (Gen)
Lusty Lassie	Mrs. Barry Tompkins (Marge)
Money Bags (Bank)	Miss Pauline Howe
Montmorency Cherries	Mrs. Dale Humphrey (Carol)
Nutty Belles	Mrs. Larry Wyatt (Dona)
Odd Belles	Mrs. Ken Olson (Lila)
Pioneer Videoettes	Sarah Fry
Pistol Packin Mamas (Legion Aux.)	Mrs. Donald Geiger (Maxine)
Rapid City Belles	Mrs. Russel Burder (Joan)
Royal Belles (Royal Neighbors)	Mrs. Joyce Warehime
School Belles (Elementary)	Joon Sell
Spanish Queens	Susana Miniel
Tardy Belles (Merrill)	Mrs. Dwayne Ettinger (Lucy)
Utilities Belles	Mrs. Kenneth Schultz (Viola)
Wagon Train Belles	Mrs. John Herrin (Joyce)
Wives of the Wheelers	Mrs. Richard Appenzeller (Betty)
Ye Town Criers	Mrs. Alfred Pace (Vivian)
	Mrs. Lyle Bressler (Betty)
	Mrs. Otis Humphrey (Lucille)

JUNIOR CHAPTERS

Centennial Bellettes	Teresae Licacci
Fortune Belles	Melisso Thome
Frontier Belles	Goyle Shoffner
Little Miss Belles	Sheila Hardy
Little Snatchers	Susan Berge
Twinkle Belles	Julie Kay Eshleman

CENTENNIAL QUEEN AWARDS

GRAND PRIZE - Simca 1000 Deluxe Automobile - Hank Bright Motors, Disco Foods, DeKalb Feeds, Paul Reynolds Citgo Service, Mills Auto Body, Poci's Tavern, New York - 3 days, 2 nights - Pepsi Cola Co., Stewart Bev. Co. Distr., Sterling, Morrison Travel Inc., Sterling, TWA, Ozark Airlines, V.H. Lawrence & Sons, Inc. and Gigs Pizzzo.

OTHER PRIZES

2 pcs. Samsonite Luggage	Sowles, Rock Falls
2 pcs. Samsonite Luggage	Bradley's Inc., Sterling
\$25.00 Gift Certificate	Klines, Sterling
\$25.00 Gift Certificate	Chester's, Sterling
Portable TV	Deem & Rock, Rock Falls
\$5.00 Gift Certificate	Scott Store, Sterling
\$5.00 Gift Certificate	Scott Store, Rock Falls
\$20.00 Cash	Rocket Trailer Sales, Rock Falls
Natural Mink Boa	Rhomberg Furs, Rockford
\$25.00 Gift Certificate	DeAnne's, Sterling
2 - Transistor Radios	Sunroy D-X Oil Co., Terre Haute, Ind.
7 Boxes Hose - 1 Peignoir set	Spereongs, Sterling
\$20.00 Gift Certificate	Bowman's, Sterling
Sarah Coventry Jewelry Set	Linda Thurm, Branch Mgr., Rock Falls
\$25.00 Check	P & W Supply, Dixon
Necklace & Earring Set	Stene's Jewelry, Sterling
\$10.00 Gift Certificate	Schiff Shoes, Sterling
Shoes & Matching Handbag	Family Shoe Store, Rock Falls
Turquoise Footstool	Wheellocks, Rock Falls
Wristwatch	Moultons Drugs, Rock Falls
Berkliner Footstool	George Furniture, Sterling
Camera	Camera Center, Rock Falls
Bookcase	Harold's Furniture, Rock Falls
Shorts & Blouse	Fashionaire, Sterling
Transistor Radio	Dietz Bros. Paint Store, Rock Falls
Regence Set	Dorla Thome, Avon Rep., Rock Falls
Blast Jacket	S & K Clothing, Rock Falls
Transistor Radio	Gambles, Rock Falls
Half Slip	Sterling Fashion, Sterling
Bathroom Scale	Yahr Longe Drug Co., Rockford
Shari Bath Set	Bardo Rexall Drug Co., Rock Falls
Transistor Radio and Electric Toothbrush	McKesson Robbins Drug Co., Rockford
Electric Handmixer	Goodyear Store, Sterling
Ladies Billfold	Daggetts Jewel Box., Rock Falls
Transistor Radio	Allen's TV, Rock Falls
Hip Huggers & Blouse	Glory Bee Apparel, Rock Falls
Corning Ware	Hurdles Hardware, Rock Falls
Purse	Gerd's Jewelry, Sterling
Jewelry Set	Gehrings, Sterling
Wall Mirror	Kurtz Glass, Rock Falls
\$10.00 Savings Account	Rock Falls Savings and Loan Association

The Centennial Queen Awards Committee was Mrs. Orville Thome, Chairman; Mrs. Robert Devers, Mrs. Fred Pyse, Jr. and Mrs. Edward Moran.

CHARTERS OF BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH

Charter No.	Organization	Nickname	Chairman	Charter No.	Organization	Nickname	Chairman
1	Disco Foods	The Fuzzy Fourteen	Dick DeFoe	13	Rock Falls American Legion	Bush Men	Marion Franks
2	Thomeway Lines	The Mangy Manes	Robert Thome	14	Castensen Frit. Lines	Whiskered Wheelers	Merle Holgren
3	RF Post Office Emp.	Uncle Sam's Shoggy Civil Service	Russell Rank	15	Jr. Boys Litter Bag Patrol	Litter Snatchers	Eddie Berge
4	Rock Falls High School	Pais-A-Gogas	Fred Ripple	16		Barnacle Bills	Barry Tompkins
5	General Dist. Co.	The Grizzly Generals	Harold Geiger	17		All Around Town Kings	Donald Cole
6	RB&W Shop Workers		James Eshleman	18	St. Andrews	St. Andrews Saints	Robert Whitebread
7	Rock Falls Lions Club	Roaring Sixteen	William Wadelton	19	RF Rotary Club	Rotary Wheels	Donald Ward
8	RB&W Office Workers		Ken Wasson	20		Little Boy's Brushes	Ed Johnson
9		First Ave. Hairys	Melvin Schuldt	21	Montmorency	Brush Boys	Wayne Simpson
10	I.O.O.F.	F.L.T.	Vernon Williams	22	Immanuel Lutheran	Brothers of Brush	Bruce Drain
11	Rock Falls Opt. Club	Optimist Toppers	Jerry Stanley	23		Barber Dodgers	Larry K. Wyatt
12	Rock Falls School Dist. 13	Itching Educators					

Official Rock Falls Centennial Beverage



The girls
girl-watchers watch

drink Diet Pepsi with only
one calorie*

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**Stewart
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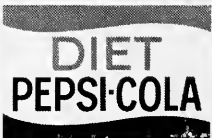
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Sterling, Illinois

Wherever there are girls, there are girl-watchers.

That's why Diet Pepsi-Cola is so popular.

It's the one low-calorie drink that tastes
good enough to be your steady drink. It has
a bright, sparkling taste. Honest-to-Pepsi taste.

That's why its last name is Pepsi-Cola.
*Less than 1/18 calorie per fluid oz.



Try it. Someone will be watching.

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Official Rock Falls Centennial Beverage

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**Pepsi-Cola cold
beats any cola cold!**

Drink Pepsi cold—the colder the better. Pepsi-Cola's taste was created for the cold. That special Pepsi taste comes alive in the cold. Drenching, quenching taste that never gives out before your thirst gives in. Pepsi pours it on!



**Taste that
beats the
others cold...
Pepsi
pours it on!**

Distributed By

Stewart Beverage Co.

1307 West 4th
Sterling, Illinois



THE ROCK FALLS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

PROUDLY PRESENTS
THE HISTORICAL SPECTACULAR

"SPANNING A CENTURY"

HINDERS MEMORIAL FIELD
ROCK FALLS, ILLINOIS

A ROGERS COMPANY PRODUCTION
DEPICTING THE HISTORY AND PROGRESS
OF
ROCK FALLS, ILLINOIS

Written, Produced and Directed By
TERRY G. ROWELL
Script Continuity By
BARBARA L. ROWELL

AUGUST 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, 1967

8:30 P.M.

THANK YOU!

I wish to thank and acknowledge, through this Centennial Booklet, the cooperation given to me by those working on Centennial Committees and participating in the pageant "Spanning A Century."

Without your help, we could not have had a 100th Anniversary Celebration.

ORVILLE THOME
General Chairman

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Hank Bright Motor Sales, for the Official Centennial Car which has been used by Mr. Terry Rowell during Centennial Time.

Leonor Mobile Home Sales, managed by Orrin Grove, for the use of the trailer furnished for nine weeks for Mr. Rowell while in Rock Falls.

Designer of the Centennial Seal, Mrs. Verna A. Ward.

THE ROCK FALLS STORY

'SPANNING A CENTURY'

NARRATORS: Maurice L. Russell, Dale J. Humphrey, P.C. Swanson, Jr., Ruth M. Deem, Shirley Swanson, Judy M. Thome. The Rack River: Fay Overlay. The Bay: Mark Hinders:

EPISODE ONE - PROLOGUE TO HER MAJESTY

Calor Guard: Jack Spencer, Jerry Walfe, Ted Nicklaus, Kenny Latta. Boy Scouts: Louis Rodrigues, Kirby Franks, Robert Carter, Steve Van Horn, Don Auman, Nathan Fry, Jack Van Horn, Rager Van Horn, Tony Fry, Dan Christian, David Yonk, Allen Payne, Andy Paul Miller, Jr. Girls: Linda Jones, Jenny Nailor, Brenda Jones, Christi Winklen, Katherine Baze, Debra Lathrop, Becky Charleston, Holly Hummel, Janet Cater, Tammy Wolzfelt, Debbie Mealar, Jody Gray, Kathy Engel, Michaelen Thome, Debbie Fiegel, Karen Hagelstein, Robyne Dawdy, Cathy Church, LuAnne Meenen, Nancy Simester, Dawn Pyse, Lori Houston, Ellen Ward, Linda Morden, Rhonda Zink, Vicki Zink, Joyce Itken, Sue Siperly, Beth Nailor, Karen LaFavre, Sandy Ward.

EPISODE TWO - I AM ROCK FALLS

Chief Blackhawk: Carl Rodekamp. Isaac Merrill: Howard Larson. Edward Atkins: Ben Jokerst. Augustus P. Smith: Lawrence Walber. Circuit Riding Minister: Larry Wooster. Early Settlers: From Episode V. Anastasia Sturtevant: Mary Arduini. School Children: From Episode VII. Doughboy: John W. Boehm. The Kid: Kevin Arduini.

EPISODE THREE - THE BOOK OF DESTINY

Sauk and Fox Indians: From Episode IV. Isaac Merrill: Howard Larson. Edward Atkins: Ben Jokerst. Noah Merrill: Bernard Scudder. Daniel Brooks: Sherman Whaley. W.W. Durant: Bob Stetson. L.H. Woodworth: Edward Conley. Artemus Worthington: Earl Lutyens. Augustus P. Smith: Lawrence Walber. John Arey: Edvins Berzins.

EPISODE FOUR - THE LAND OF BLACKHAWK

Chief Blackhawk: Carl Rodekamp. Indian Braves: Chris Allen Hines, David Deem, Daug Hand, Greg Pro, Tim Cantrell, Lerry Terronez, Carl Rodekamp, Robby Rodekamp, Tim Kyger, Randy Bell. Indian Squaws: Mmes. Gerald Sikema, J.L. Kelsey, Werdell Clark, Ross Lennox, William G. Heide, Jr., Rallin DeSmith, Harry Bahms, Harald Detweiler, Gerald McNitt, Grant Canboy, Herman Olman, Albert Jensen, Ray Adams, M.L. Skelton, Edw. J. Dietz, Russell Welch, Wm. Montgomery and Vi Beelendorf. Indian Children: Steven Cole, Donnie Cale, Lori Nehrkarn, Debbie Jacobs, Rhonda Rippel, Renee Rippel, Sue Shumaker, Susan Staelens. Indian Girl Dancers: Christy Tompkins, Judy Hart, Melissa Gehrke, Melanie Gehrke, Wynne Pyle, Marsha Martenson, Sheila Keegan, Cynthia Hayes, Donna Haas, Deborah Haas, Constance Knowles, Julia Henderson, Deb Banner, Becky Carter, Marsha Graddy, Donna Jacobs, Brenda Blackburn, Claire Ruckdeschel, Barb Parttridge, Diann Partridge, Paula Vinson, Diane Wescott, Melissa Thome, Jackie Henson, Debbie Jones, Pat Naltzger. Indian Princess Dances: Paula Gajlow-ski (Sharon Dale Dance Studio).

EPISODE FIVE - AND SO WE BEGAN

Wagon Master: Harold B. Dodd, Jr. Woman Milking Cow: Mrs. Walter Shaffner. Women Washing Clothes: Mrs. Lowell Williams, Mrs. Lena Willman. Men with Clothes Line: Raymond Lattimer, Adam Yoeckel. Women Washing Bay: Boots Cole, Faye Baker. Boy in Tub: Tim Lee Shoffner. Woman with Red Patch: Mrs. Edward Klocke. Pioneer Bay: Mark Thome. Gramps: Walter Shaffner. Woman Churning Butter: Mrs. Earl Bennett. Lucy: Mrs. Ethel Degnon. Assistant Cook: Marcella Ingold. Frank Cushing: Jerry A. Adams. Midwife: Betty Adams. Helpers: Mrs. Catherine Van De Mark, Shirley Dodd, Mary Paci. Woman Reviver: Mrs. Donald Ward. Accordion Player: Edward Klocke. Fiddle Player: Lowell Williams. Banjo Player: Jay Baker. Square Dancers: Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Reichardt, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Shoffner, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Tompkins, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Arvola, Eloise Gould, Chuck Cummings, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Roth, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Paci, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley George, Mr. and Mrs. Don Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs.

Urban Martenson, Mrs. Dale Humphrey, Steven Humphrey, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Olson, Burton Ferguson, Mrs. Vicky Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Bennett, Bert Epps, Marilyn Whimer, Iris Hermes, Johanna Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Yoeckel, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Victor V. Hart, Gladys Hermes, Mr. and Mrs. Orville Hopkins, George Birdsell, Marcella Ingold, Raymond Lattimer. Pioneer Man: Rev. Donald Ward. Pioneer Children: Bill Davis, Frank Pierce, Richard Rieck, Allen Bahms, Tadd Lattimer, Bradley Pursell, Jeffrey Lattimer, Mark Thome, Tim Lee Shoffner, Craig Tompkins, Kim McBride, Jill Humphrey, Jill Dillon, Jill Johnston, Michaelen Thome, Gayle Lynn Shoffner, Tani Poci.

EPISODE SIX - FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM

The Minister: Rev. Fred Anderson. The Cross: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kepner, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Stern, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Leusby, Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. David Little, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Leuschke, Mrs. Elwyn Stevens, Mrs. Glenn Detweiler, Mr. and Mrs. Arman Goulrapp, Mr. and Mrs. Clare Hayward, Mr. and Mrs. Dan McNinch, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Weaver, Mrs. Dorsey Person, Miss Helen Person, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Faulkner, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Clark Haot, Mrs. Fay Overlay, Mrs. Floyd Carl, Miss Cleara Capp, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Lair, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Harker, Mr. and Mrs. Willis Helt, Barbara Gebhardt, Mrs. Willard Hughes, Mrs. John Musselman, Mrs. Maurice Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Harker, Mrs. John Jackley and other cast members.

EPISODE SEVEN - DAWNING OF THE THREE R'S

S.T. Shirley: Werdell Clark. School Girls: Pam Simpson, Karen Dettman, Amanda Paci, Christine Simpson, Connie Haas, Jeanine Gebhardt, Sherrie Clevenger. Schaal Boys: Mark Thome, Mike Pra, Kevin Hummel, Jack Gillette, Tim Boyd, Tom Boyd, Jim King, Jr., Richard Denny, Terry Moore.

EPISODE EIGHT - FLAT BOATS TO RAILROADS

Waman Late for Train: Mrs. Don Jacobs. Her Helper: Tony Paci. Virginia Reel Dancers: Mr. and Mrs. Llewellyn J. Meenen, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Larson, Mr. and Mrs. John Haas, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Denny, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence McCord, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Downey, Mrs. Palmer Swanson, Jr., Mrs. Daniel Johnson, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Dick Clifton, Mr. and Mrs. Loren Weckesser, Mr. and Mrs. William Nardstrom, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Schmitt, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Paci, Mr. and Mrs. Tany J. Paci, Mr. and Mrs. Harold O. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. James Von Halton, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Kaster, Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Koehler, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Exner, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gale, Mr. William H. Janssen, Mr. and Mrs. Urban Martenson, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Rasengren, Dr. and Mrs. E.O. DeWeerth, LuAnne Meenen, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schillo, Denny Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. Austin Corzett. Old Fashioned Children: Rodney Wetzel, Jeff Pope, Michael Saathoff, Rowland Kaster, Jim Behrens, Philip Nusbamm, Michael Weckesser, John Haas, Jr., Erie Swanson, Greg Schmitt, Vicki Schmitt, Debbie Jacobs, Sue Shumaker, Sheila Keegan, Leah Kaster, Sue Leeman, Christine Rosengren, Claire Ruckdeschel, Dana Weckesser, Carla Weckesser, Connie Haas, Patricia Rosengren, Sonja Swanson, Tani Paci.

EPISODE NINE - A VOLUME OF HISTORY BOUND IN BLACK

W.H. Butler: Ralph Clark. Hymn Singing Women: Mrs. Harold Holcomb, Mrs. Walter Shaffner, Nancy Jean Halcamb, Gayle Lynn Shaffner, Mrs. Glen Genz, Mrs. Ralph Clark, Mrs. Walter Halcamb. "Deacon Arey": Walter Shaffner. Traveler: Austin Corzett. Confederate Officers: Larry Wolf. Union Officer: Ray Dale Megli. Confederate Soldiers: Gary Lee Scott, Glen Genz, David Megli, Larry Wolf, Dale Hayden, Eugene LeFevre, Glen Nelson, Jim Ryan, Roy Smith, Jim Hayden, Joy King. Union Soldiers: Elvin Schmitt, Donald Woldschmidt, Roy Dale Megli, Robert Deets, Jim Tarrence, LeRoy Genz, Roy Adams, Ron Ufklin, Orville Kuehl, Clarence Bolster, Mike Koehler, Ross M. Johnson. Bugler: Dale Larson. Mother: Mrs. John Haas. Townspeople: From previous scene. Lincoln: Orville Thome.

***** INTERMISSION *****

EPISODE TEN - THE GOLDEN AGE

Lida Rose: Connie Oberbillig. Quartet: Ronald Harrington, Fred Tintori, Jack Renner, Alfred Renner. Picnics: Mrs. Herman Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hoffmiller, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan G. Wolf. Woman Left Out: Mrs. Leo Nardini. Bicycle Couple: Maurice and Alice Wick. Samuel Frank: Dennis Devers. Fire Chief: Gale McBride. Firemen: Donald Virtue, John Haas, Lawrence Walber, George Birdsall, Roy Dale Megli, Larry Wolf. The Caps: John Hoffmiller, Rick Nordstrom. Galfer: Dav Thome. A.A. Thome: Gene Reider. Photographer: Urban Martenson. Curious Woman: Mrs. Lyle Williamson. Bathing Beauties: Mrs. Tom Clemenz, Mrs. Roy Scrivner, Mrs. Frank Evans, Mrs. Charles Rosenberg, Mrs. Allen Chronister, Mrs. Jack Henson, Mrs. Gale McBride, Mrs. Larry Hart. Winnie Clinkdollar: Mrs. Charles Rosenberry. Life Guard: Glen Myers. Little Girl: Kim McBride. Medicine Man: Don Jacobs. Can-Can Girls: Cynthia James, Chris Tompkins, Karen Bohms, Cheryl Fullmer, Janet Hunsberger, Beth Ward. (Sharon Dale Dance Studio). Balloon Woman: Mrs. Vernon Johnson and Rhonda. Gay 90's Men and Women: Donna Haas, Debbie Haas, Iris Hermes, Dickie Beene, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reichardt, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kepner, Barney Scudder, Frances Bohms, Ellen Tupy, Ron Gys-son, Mary LaFleur, Bert Epps, George Biller, Robert Donaldson, John Hoffmiller, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Lair, Mr. and Mrs. George Dudley, Donald Virtue, A.L. Dudley, Mr. Charles Cummings, Mrs. James Taets, Mrs. Paul D. Miller, Melissa Thome, Mrs. Vernon Johnson, Bonnie Biller, Wilma Meiner, Bonnie Cook, Linda Engel, Mrs. Harold Carolus, Mrs. Jayce Herrin, Mrs. Shirley Morris, Mrs. Kenny Wilson, Mrs. LeRoy Blatz, Mrs. Robert Donaldson, Mrs. Herman Chapman, Gladys Hermes, Iris Hermes, Bert Epps, Johnna Walker, Irene Gilman, Eloise Gauld, Mr. and Mrs. Urban Martenson, Mr. and Mrs. Don Jacobs, Cleora Capp, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Clark. Horseshoe Player: Lyle Williamson. Croquet Players: Mr. and Mrs. John Jack-ley. Gay 90's Boys and Girls: Debbie Chapman, Wes Chapman, Barbara Gebhardt, Grace Trudo, Susan Nielsen, Jill Trudo, Kim McBride, Vivian McBroom, Karen Manning, Michaelen Thome, Rhonda Johnson, Patty Johnson, Lory Donaldson, Edward Johnston, Douglas Waldschmidt, Scott Humphrey, Jack Johnston, Kurt McBride, Mark Thome, Gary Knapp, Raymond Johnson, Robin Hochstetter, Henry Hochstetter, Brett Hochstetter, Jeanine Gebhardt, Pam Simpson, Chris Simpson.

EPISODE ELEVEN - THE TURBULENT TEENS

Color Guard: Jack Spencer, Jerry Wolfe, Ted Nicklaus, Kenny Latta. Dought-boy: John W. Boehm. Lady in Black: Janet Weaver. Those Who Remember: Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Boehm, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hines, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Genz, Mr. and Mrs. Clair Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Kaiser, Eva Teterick, Milton Teterick, Mrs. John Haas.

EPISODE TWELVE - AT THE FLICKS

Theda Bara: Mrs. Barry Tompkins, Rudolph Valentino: Don Oberbillig, Irate Husband: Tom Kavadas.

EPISODE THIRTEEN - THE LOST GENERATION

Charleston Dancers: Ellen Browne, Janice Gehrke, Sue McDonald, Jackie Henson, Debbie Knuth, Joan Eshleman, Doug Hand, David Deem, Mark Rig-gins, Chris Hines, David Billeaux, Bill Clark. Car Drivers: Floyd Carl, Kent Detweiler.

EPISODE FOURTEEN - THE DARK YEARS

W.P.A. Workers: Rev. Fred Anderson, Werdell Clark, Herman H. Oltman, Clark Haat, Paul Weaver, C.K. Hayward, Frank J. Reichardt, Emery McNeil, Arman Gaulrapp, Edward Klacke, Orville Harting, Al Hoffmiller, Rev. Dan Ward, Ronald Hartshorn.

EPISODE FIFTEEN - SIEGE FOR FREEDOM

Mother: Mrs. John Haas. Father: John Haas. Son: Ross M. Johnson. Daughter: Donna Haas. Sailor: Don Rosengren. Red Cross Ladies: Mrs. Gerald Sikkema, Mrs. Edith Haster, Mrs. Fred Stindt, Mrs. Raymond Ruckdeschel, Mrs. Geo. Palte. Nurse: Mrs. Dale Humphrey. Iwo Jima Men: Jack Spencer, Jerry Wolfe, Kenny Latta, Richard Willhite, Leo Manan, Ted Nicklaus.

EPISODE SIXTEEN - THE ATOMIC ERA

The Atom Bomb: Itself.

EPISODE SEVENTEEN - THE FIFTIES

The Teenage Girl: Sandy Parker. Teenagers: Hugo - Chris Hines, Penelope - Barb Partridge, Margie - Joan Eshelman, Ursula - Sue McDonald, Harvey - Doug Hand, Alice - Jackie Henson, Nancy - Vicki Dettman. Wynne Pyle, Debbie Knuth, Margaret Casillas, Rita Rodriguez, Ellen Browne, Dave Billeaux, Pat Naftzger, Iris Hermes, Bonnie Burger, Marcia Pro, Melissa Thome, Sandra Pape, Donna Jacobs, Ruben Alba, Steven Humphrey, Danny Waldschmidt, Doug Knapp, Martin Ramirez, Jr., Gary Paci, Tim Kyger, Joe Buckingham, Greg Pro, Randy Hart, Terri Wolf, Gary Buckingham, David Deem, Mark Riggins, Claire Ruckdeschel, Sheila Keegan, Mary Johnson, Rita Rodriguez, Estelita Rodriguez, Sheryl Hart, Joyce Jourdan, Judy Jourdan, Peggy Dietz, Vicki Dettman, Connie Schultz, Janice Gehrke.

EPISODE EIGHTEEN - THE AGE OF SPACE

The Rocket: Itself. The Astronaut.

EPISODE NINETEEN - THE BEGINNING OR THE END

The Entire Cast.

The Properties Committee wishes to thank all those who donated properties for the Spectacle. The committee also wishes to thank Harold Smith and Mrs. Roy Adams for their assistance in securing properties, and Donald Murray, Allen Gillette and James Higgins for collecting and cleaning the guns and loading the shells.

The Spectacle Committee wishes to thank John Dussler and his staff, Jim King and his staff and D & W Heating and Sheet Metal for their assistance in construction of the stage.

SPECTACLE COMMITTEE

Division Chairman: Floyd Carl. Co-Chairman: Lee Wolfe. Properties: Ralph Fluck. Scenaria and Title: Mrs. Frank J. Reichardt. Costumes and Makeup: Mrs. George Billeaux. Construction: John Dussler. Grounds: James Hindley. Cost Committee: Marlene Dykeman - Chairman, Edna Oberbillig, Gladys Pense, Mary Myers, Ethel Janssen, Minerva Hagberg, Janet Oberbillig.

TOP 22 QUEEN CONTESTANTS

Charlotte Aper, Liz Beelendorf, Lorraine Dahlstrom, Jane Freeman, Florence Guerrieri, Marion Hand, Betty Hanson, Esther Keime, Pat Kisee, Katie Klacke, Charlene Kulas, Phyllis A. Megli, Judy Nehrkorn, Judy Nailor, Theresa Rank, Lillian Rohde, Sandra Semestre, Janet Stevens, Billie Taylor, Judy Thome, Laura Tintori, Margaret Tomkins.

OPTIMIST CLUB

The Rock Falls Optimist Club was organized April 17, 1947 with Irving Weckessor as the first president.

The club is very active in philanthropic work for boys and girls. They organized and started Babe Ruth Baseball and they sponsor a Little League Team. In 1947, they purchased and installed an electric score board at the Rock Falls High School Athletic field, at a cost of \$2300. Recently they have spent \$500 to repair the board and bring it up to date for scoring and time.

Youth appreciation week is an annual project of the club, with the students at Rock Falls High School organizing into two or more political parties when they nominate and elect the various city offices from the mayor on down.

Elected officials take over the city offices for a day and conduct a council meeting. They are aided by the club at one of their regular meetings.

The club sponsors the GAA Dance each fall and pays for the orchestra for the Student Council Dance, at which time admission is by food donations, which fill poor baskets.

Each summer, 15 boys are sponsored for a week at Camp Hahbert, a YMCA camp on the Mississippi River.

The club contributed \$6000 to the Community and Youth Building. It is in the process of development on Optimist Park and will continue to develop this site for recreational purposes.

Jim Johnson is the new Optimist President, secretary-treasurer is Ross Lennox.

THE GOLDEN AGE CLUB

The Golden Age Club was organized in 1965 with the first president Mrs. Esther Covel.

This is a very active social club which has many get-togethers and pot-luck meetings. They also do many things to help the handicapped.

Mrs. Ann Richardson is the 1967 president.

GOOD FELLOWS OF COLOMA

A group of representatives of the churches met Wednesday evening, December 15, 1937 in the City Hall with Mayor Fiegley and the City Council for the purpose of forming an organization to look after our needy at Christmas time.

Mayor Fiegley called the meeting to order, and explained why such an organization was needed. They were also to look after needy families during the year.

Harry Fiegley was elected temporary chairman and Fred Smith temporary secretary.

The first officers were: Chairman Robert Brown; Vice-Chairman Rev. Harry Shiffer; Secretary Mrs. Karl Cruse; Treasurer L. L. Winn.

It was moved and seconded the organization be called "Good Fellows of Coloma". Mayor Fiegley started the fund with a gift of \$5.00 in memory of his wife. The first year \$189.59 was donated and 79 families were helped.

In 1940, it was voted to discontinue baskets and to give grocery certificates. Beginning November 7, 1946, the good fellows were included in the Civic Fund and now receive monies from the Community Chest.

The Good Fellows now give in addition to food certificates, "Cheer Baskets" to the shut-ins.

In 1962, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization was held with several of the original members present. Dick Willhite and Harry Insley are both still members of the organization.

Present officers are: President William Maynard, Vice Chairman Elmer Schultz; Treasurer Mrs. Mervin McNinch and Secretary Mrs. Frank Simpson.

ROCK FALLS YOUTH CENTER

In 1956, a group of boys met with Orval Howard in the recreation room of Coloma Homes, which is the local housing authority buildings in Rock Falls. This was the beginning of a Youth Center which filled a need in the lives of our young people. They would meet twice a week for games, movies and fellowship. With the addition of equipment provided by the Optimist Club, interest continued and girls were included and started attending. Record playing and dancing were added to their activities.

When Mrs. Elizabeth Kontos and sons John and Ted learned that the Youth Center had outgrown the recreation room, they offered the use of an upstairs room of their downtown building in Rock Falls at a fee of \$1.00 per year. Many hours of donated labor by adults and the youngsters in cleaning, painting, plastering, and plumbing, turned the room into a fine Youth Center facility. The new quarters opened October 23, 1957 with over two hundred youth in attendance. A membership fee of \$1.00 per year plus 10¢ for each night of attendance, was instituted. Monday night was designated for junior high students and Wednesday night for high school students. Baskets of food, canned goods for the needy and youth parades were some of the other activities in which the young people participated.

Attendance continued to grow with a membership of 859 for the two nights. It was felt that the Youth Center was outgrowing their downtown location. About this time plans were being formulated for a Civic Center for all city buildings and it seemed feasible to include a community building and a youth center in these plans. The Civic Center was acquired by a referendum and the plans included a Community-Youth Building as a part of the Center to be built by private funds. After much work on a fund drive, the building was started and progressed as funds became available. The building was completed with furnishings being added as funds could provide them. The building is available to the general public for civic meetings and functions, and to the youth as a Youth Center. The Youth Center was officially opened in September of 1966 with Orval Howard continuing as director. Dancing, shuffle board and table tennis are the main activities with a canteen providing refreshments.

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

The Women's Christian Temperance Union was organized in Rock Falls in 1882 as a member of the tenth district which included several counties.

The W.C.T.U. is a temperance organization which also does much welfare work.

In 1892, the local group was hostess to the 9th Convention.

Known charter members were: Mrs. L. L. Emmons (Kate), Mrs. Lu Worman, Francis Morrell, M.D., Mrs. W. B. Emmons (Francis), Mrs. James Harden, Mrs. A. Shirley, Mr. and Mrs. Leitch, Mrs. Charles Glasburn, Mrs. Sabana Butler, Miss Mary Whitney, Mrs. Fred Whitney, Miss Julia Kline, Mrs. E. Eberley, Mrs. H. Warner, Mrs. Nellie Mouck and Mrs. B. H. Gray.

Mrs. P. H. Pohly, who joined in 1931, was an active member until her death in 1964 at the age of 100.

The 1967 officers are: Mrs. Fred Humphrey, President; Mrs. George Hinrichs, Vice-President; Mrs. Fred Reinhart, Secretary; and Mrs. Arthur Purdue, Treasurer.

AREA ORGANIZATIONS

STERLING-ROCK FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Through the efforts of Gunner Bensen and several other persons, an organizational meeting for the Historical Society was held February 27, 1959 in the Sterling Y. M. C. A.

The organization was chartered on May 19, 1959, with forty-one members. A constitution was adopted and the first officers were: Gunner Benson, President; Dick Metcalfe, Vice-President; Madeleine Nutall, Secretary and Lloyd Efiline, Treasurer.

Records have been found of the first Whiteside County Historical Society, which was organized in 1903 with W. W. Davis as Secretary.

The Historical Society plans are: Marking local historical sites; Photographing source materials pertaining to local data; Taping and making interviews with older residents for permanent records; Collecting and preserving papers, letters, diaries, etc. of historical nature.

Tours of the local area are arranged, pointing out historical spots.

The Society has a museum located in the Sterling Coliseum for the display of articles and papers. Mrs. Winifred Moore was the first curator of the museum. W. Corliss Bryant is the present curator.

The museum is open on holidays or by calling Mr. Bryant, an appointment can be made to make a visit.

In 1963, the Society became incorporated and is now affiliated with the State Historical Society.

Present officers are: LeRoy Thummel, President; Lee Piper, Vice-President; Alice Buyers, Secretary and Elsie Buntley, Treasurer.

STERLING-ROCK FALLS CHAPTER SPEBSQSA, INC.

The Sterling-Rock Falls Chapter of Barbershoppers of the SPEBSQSA, Inc. was organized in 1951. They have a membership of forty-five men from the surrounding area. Present officers are: Program Vice-President Ralph Campbell, Morrison; Membership Vice-President Earl Beggs, Sterling; Secretary Howard Johnson, Rock Falls; Treasurer Ed Schweiss, Sterling; Public Relations Don Shontz, Sterling.

This is a service organization. At Christmas time, they sing for the Whiteside County Nursing Home, Martin Home, Colonial Acres Nursing Home, Community General Hospital, Garden Homes and Coloma Court. They annually sponsor a top Quartette Show, which is their money making event.

STERLING-ROCK FALLS CHAPTER SWEET ADELINES, INC.

The local chapter of Sweet Adelines, Inc. was chartered on July 17, 1965. They have a membership of twenty-two at the present time.

Sweet Adelines, Inc. is an International organization whose function is barbershop singing for women. The ladies sing for churches, schools, civic and community organizations. They are self-supporting and operate on a non-profit basis.

Founders of the Sterling-Rock Falls chapter were Liz Speer, Grace Batley, Diane Pauley and Pat Ritenour. The original officers were: President Liz Speer, Vice-President Diane Pauley, Secretary Pat Ritenour and Treasurer Zelma Book.

The officers for 1967-68 are: President Norma Meyer, Vice-President Jean Palethorpe, Recording Secretary Effie Hunsberger, Corresponding Secretary Jacque Handel, Treasurer Bernice Fester.

PILOT CLUB

The Pilot Club members are business and professional women in Rock Falls and Sterling. They were organized locally in 1956 and at present, have a membership of twenty-three. They are members of Pilot International, which is a womens classified service club, whose membership consists of business and professional women in executive positions.

Mrs. Alice Lundstrom was the first president and Mrs. Ethel Degnan is the 1966-67 president. Meetings are held twice monthly with prominent speakers for their dinner meetings.

They are engaged in a number of service activities to the community. Two major projects are scholarships, which are given annually in memory of deceased members. One is a \$200.00 Sauk Valley College scholarship, given to a student in one of the three local high schools in memory of Mrs. Jeanette Polzin. The other is a \$300.00 nursing scholarship in memory of Mrs. Lila McGava.

WHITESIDE COUNTY RABBIT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

The Whiteside County Rabbit Breeders Association organized October 18, 1940 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Short. The first officers were elected at a meeting held in the Glenn Detweiler home. President Harold Hurd, Jr. Vice-President Howard Sucher, Sec. - Treas. Neil Short.

In 1943, there were 18 members. The club now has two rabbit shows a year, one at the Whiteside County Fair Grounds and one at the Sterling Coliseum.

The club helps children in starting to raise rabbits and instructs them in showing rabbits. It gives a helping hand to new breeders.

Charter members who still belong to the club are: Mrs. Eva Purdue, Mrs. Blanche Short and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Detweiler.

ROCK FALLS PRESIDENTS AND MAYORS

Throughout the 100 years of the history of Rock Falls, we have had many men who have given of themselves to serve our town as leaders. It would be impossible to name all of them in a small historical booklet. The town, although settled in 1867, was not incorporated as a village until 1869. In the first election for officers, William L. Smith was elected president and Henry P. Price as clerk. They each served only one year and were succeeded in 1870 by A.C. Haggood as president and J. Burdick as clerk. The following year, E.G.W. Parks, who owned the paper mill, became president and Haggood took over as clerk. C.H. Payson succeeded Mr. Parks and J. McDonald became clerk. From 1873 to 1876, Almon Wheeler was president and W.H. Tuttle was clerk. 1876 found J. D. Davis as president and George W. Nance as clerk.

The records from the year 1877 through 1886 could not be found, but we are quite sure that Joseph Wright served at least one term as president. The following five years from 1886 to 1891, W.H. Cadwell was the clerk and R.H. Sheldon, W.S. Knee and George W. Packer each served a one year term as president. In 1889, Rock Falls was incorporated as a town and elected its first mayor, Egbert L. Wilson, who died in office in 1891. Joseph Wright was appointed to fill out his term.

1891 through 1893, John Kadel was mayor with J.D. Montague serving as clerk the first year and E.C. Winters as clerk the years of 1893 through 1905. From 1893-1895, D.O. Coe was mayor. During his term, the Bridge Street sewer was installed. In 1895, R.L. Leitch was elected mayor by only one vote on the 'no license' party. Ward Linc succeeded him and the sidewalks were built on Gray St. From 1899 through 1903, R.H. Woods was mayor and sidewalks were built on Dixon Avenue, East Third Street and 1st, 2nd and 3rd Avenues.

T.E. Erwin, a former township supervisor, was mayor from 1903 through 1905. More sidewalks were built on First Avenue and the Fifth Avenue and Second Street sewers were installed.

In 1905, Walter Murray became mayor and J.G. Limerick, the clerk. They both served two years. During Murray's term, the first pavement was put in from First Avenue to Fourth Avenue on West Second Street. The Eighth Avenue and West Fifth Street sewers were also constructed.

A.A. Thome began his first of fourteen years as mayor of Rock Falls in 1907. These were not consecutive years. C.L. Hubbard became city clerk and served two years. During Thome's first term, First Avenue was paved as far as Dixon Avenue and the Dixon Avenue sewer was installed.

E.U. Taylor, who ran a hardware store, became mayor in 1909 and served until 1911. J.C. Limerick became city clerk again and served through A.A. Thome's second term, 1911-1913. Mr. Limerick was a barber and in later years also served as a justice of the peace.

A.C. Stanley was mayor from 1913-1915 and C.A. Frey was clerk. A.A. Thome was again mayor from 1915-1923, with P.H. Davis serving as clerk the first four years and Fred S. Howe beginning a 15 year term as clerk in 1919. During these terms of Mayor Thome, \$15,000 was spent on new boilers for the electric light plant, built prior to 1895. Also the first motor fire truck was purchased in 1920 at a cost of \$7,000.

David L. King was mayor from 1923 through 1927. It was then the ornamental lights were installed, also the pavement from West Second Street to the bridge and Twelfth Avenue from West Second Street to the Avenue G Bridge constructed. A.A. Thome then served his last two years as mayor. During this term, the East Second Street sewer was laid.

Gus Hanson, a barber, was mayor from 1931 to 1933. He was a Spanish-American war veteran and was for many years a Justice of the Peace. Samuel Feigely took office in 1933. He, too, was a Spanish-American war veteran. During his term, the primary treatment sewage disposal plant was built. In 1934, Earl Forehand became clerk, which office he still holds. Mr. Feigely served as mayor until 1945 when he was succeeded by Frank Trager, a Sterling plumbing and heating contractor.

Irving Weckesser, who had a plumbing shop in Rock Falls, became mayor in 1949 and served until 1953. During his term, a \$500,000 bond issue was passed and the main extensions of the sewer were installed. Prior to that time, there was very little sewer line south of Fifth Street.

Albert E. George succeeded Weckesser as mayor and was elected supervisor of the township after his term as mayor. He had to resign this office due to ill health.

Louis J. Pignatelli, a native son and an attorney, was elected to his first term as mayor in 1957 and has been re-elected twice - his present term expiring in 1969. During his terms of office, many fine improvements have been made. Blocks of new curb and gutter and blacktop streets have been installed. The new civic center was his dream and became a reality in 1964 with the completion of the new Fire-Police Service building and the new City Administration building and library. This fine new complex of buildings would do credit to a town many times our size. The new Community-Youth building, also in the civic center, was dedicated on April 9 of this year. A new band shelter has also been built during Mayor Pignatelli's term.

The present city council and the wards they represent are as follows: First Ward, Ernest Conley and Oscar Werland; Second Ward, Henry Bright and Paul Fulrath; Third Ward, Wilbur McNinch and Albert Jensen; Fourth Ward, James Baker and Joseph Padilla.

Some of the other accomplishments of Mr. Pignatelli's terms have been the four-laning of Route 30 by the state and the installation of the light standards from the Prophetstown Road on the west to the canal east of Route 88, by the city. The new uptown street lighting was also installed. The water system was also purchased and expanded. The new disposal plant has been built and sanitary sewer lines installed east of the canal. The Industrial Park was started and a \$60,000 hook and ladder fire truck purchased.

ROCK FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

The oldest document that has been found regarding what is now called Rock Falls Police and Fire Service, is a certificate of acceptance of members of the Keystone Hose Co. by the village board of trustees filed with the city clerk on August 30, 1879. In 1885, the village board paid the members of the Keystone Hose Co. \$1.00 each, for each fire attended. They were stationed in the Keystone Buildings and the fire bell was atop the Keystone Office Building (now occupied by the Masonic Temple). In 1889, the village asked that 6 of the firemen be stationed at the city building and this was



The group at the City Hall became known as the Rock Falls Hose Company. Now that there were two companies, the company attending the fire received donations from the party whose building(s) were involved. This led to some disagreement and even fights between the companies to see who would get to the fire first. If both companies responded, a fight ensued and the building was often left to burn to the ground. Finally, a dividing line was agreed upon. They also had their troubles back then, with spectators getting in the way of the fire fighters and in 1890, they asked the village board for help.

In 1891, the city began purchasing equipment, and in 1893, the Rock Falls Company was certified a member of the Illinois Firemen's Ass'n. On April 9, 1894, the Keystone Hose Company joined the Rock Falls Company. The 18 men of these companies were then considered as charter members of the Rock Falls Company. These charter members were: A.J. Burdick, J.D. Montague, A.C. Stanley, John Dickson, Frank Bemis, John Eitman, A.K. Page, S.M. Mingle, D. Coe, P.A. Whitney, A. Hoefler, H.C. Rouse, Howard Arey, B.F. Kadel, J.V. McCarty, John Pippert, Fred Smith and George Canning.



Rock Falls Fire Horses Thome & Grady with Port Whitney
It was 1908 when the city felt it could afford horses to pull their fire equipment, instead of the brown of the men of the department. Mayor Thome and Alderman C. C. Grady purchased the two dappled draft horses and they were promptly named Thome and Grady. They were retired to a farm near Geneseo in the early 1920's when the fire department purchased its first motorized equipment.

In August of 1908, the city council purchased a team of horses to pull the fire wagons. They were named Thome and Grady, after the mayor, A.A. Thome and alderman Grady. A new building was built that year to house the horses.

In 1921, after 12 years of service, the horse drawn wagon gave way to a hose and chemical truck, a motor vehicle which was purchased by the Volunteer Department. After this purchase, the horses were retired to a farm south of the city. At this time, Ed Derwant was chief, Wm. Tyne, assistant chief, J.W. Olson, secretary and Sam Traister, treasurer. On Sunday, January 22, 1922, the Methodist Church caught fire and was a total loss. This was due to low water pressure, since Sterling was having a church fire at the same time and both cities were sharing the same water system. On March 1, 1922, C. Scott was elected chief.

In 1928, a 600 gallon Peter Pirtch pumper was placed in service. This truck cost \$9,000 and the city gave \$2,300 toward its purchase. In 1936, another 600 gallon pumper was purchased by the Volunteer Department, which paid \$499.00 as a down payment - said sum having been borrowed from the city. In 1946, the Volunteer Department bought a John Bean high pressure truck. This was the first of its type in this area.

A Chevrolet ambulance was put in service in 1940 and in 1948 a Cadillac ambulance, made at the local Eureka Company, was put on emergency service in the city and rural areas. In 1949, part of the city and the rural area didn't have any water supply, so the department purchased a 1,500 gallon tank truck. The volunteers and paid men built a 800 gallon tank truck in 1952. The same year, the International Harvester Company donated a station wagon, which was made into a rescue truck to haul light plant, smoke ejector and tarpaulins for covering household goods to keep them from water damage. Also in 1952, R.J. Maynard was appointed chief and has remained in that office to the present day.

A 750 gallon high-low pressure truck was purchased at a cost of \$21,000 in 1955. The city gave \$5,000 toward the purchase. March of 1958, the police and fire departments co-ordinated and became what is now known as the Rock Falls Police-Fire Service. The city purchased another 750 gallon high-low pressure truck in 1959.

A one-year-old Dalmation dog was donated to the department by

Dr. Ogden of Tampico in 1951. The dog, who was named Topper, retired in 1963. A new 4 wheel drive rescue truck, with all the latest equipment available, was put in service in 1966. Also a 75 foot aerial truck, the first for the department, was put into service.

Through the years, there has been a total of 205 members in this department. All of these men have gained a lot of experience for the time they spent in service to the department. This history has been compiled from the minutes of meetings held.

In the old days, the Fire Chief was called the "Foreman". In 1879, this was H.L. Newton, 1886, it was I.W. Ishwood and in 1893, A.C. Stanley was appointed Fire Marshal. Some of the others who served in this capacity were: J.D. Montague, John Pippert, Robert Harper, F.J. Wagley, C. Grady, Charles Billings, John Washburn and John Edeus.

CONSTABLES AND CHIEFS OF POLICE

Since the organization of the town, many men have served as constable and in later years as chiefs of police. Most served for only a year or two, until 1887 when H.L. Brewer was appointed. He served in that capacity for nine years until 1902 - although not in consecutive years. H.J. Presbry served for nine years from April 8, 1911 until May of 1923 - again not continuously. Succeeding him were P.A. Whitney, Charles S. Johnson and Al Berlin, who served for 6 years; and M.B. McDonnell from May, 1933 to May 1945. Harry A. Smith succeeded him and served two years and was succeeded by Orvel Howard, who served until 1948. Glenn Keime was appointed Chief of Police on October 18, 1949 and served in that capacity until April 4, 1959 and is still a member of the force. When the Police Fire Service became one in 1960, Russell J. Maynard was appointed chief of both services and still serves in that capacity.

ROCK FALLS LIGHT DEPARTMENT

In 1895, an election was held for the purpose of establishing an electric light plant for Rock Falls. On April 13, 1895, the council voted to establish a light plant and on June 13 of that year, a contract was awarded to the Standard Electric Company of Chicago to build a power plant and lighting system.

At first the plant was operated only from sunset to sunrise with a moonlight schedule for the street arc lamps. Otherwise, all arc lights were turned off at midnight.

The first electric customer was the old Geyer Building. A street light circuit was run into the building and a single light was hung in the middle of the main room. Thus his store was lighted during the hours that the street lights were burning. This was the start of commercial lighting in the city and the money he paid for this service was the first electric revenue collected by the department.

No meters were used. A flat rate charge of 20¢ per month per lamp being made.

In 1900, Superintendent Oley M. Aarvig was hired. He had been on the job when the original installation was made and had helped to build the street light circuit.

In 1904, new equipment was added and in 1906, 215 meters were installed, each property owner paying \$17.00 per meter. On December 6, 1909, a 24 hour schedule for lighting was begun. In 1924, the steam plant was closed down and the entire load of the city was connected to the Illinois Northern Utilities lines at 2300 volts under rate "c". Under the I.N.U. contract, the plant was very successful. Lines were extended, streets were well lighted and profits accumulated. Capacitors were installed and Rock Falls received a rate "d" and the savings paid for the capacitors in 8 months.

In 1954, the city and the RB&W exchanged some properties as the old light plant was located at 101 Avenue A, which was adjacent to the RB&W Plant. A new electric building and office was constructed at 205 East 3rd Street. This is still the light plant. However, with the construction of the new community building, the office was transferred with the other city offices.

There have been only six superintendents in the Electric Department: L.J. Dow, 1895-1898; H.L. Page, 1898-1899; Charles McCarty, 1899-1900; O.M. Aarvig, 1900-1945; Leonard O. Skaggs, 1945-1965. Leonard had worked under Oley and knew the complex Rock Falls system. He died while still active in the department. Milo F. Bryant, who trained under Leonard, is now superintendent of the Light Department.

OUR CITY SEWER

Prior to 1936, Rock Falls was guilty, as were most all cities on rivers, of dumping raw sewage into the Rock River. But on January 3rd of that year, we saw the error of our ways and a special election was held authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds for the purpose of defraying part of the cost of constructing storm sewers, sanitary sewers and a primary treatment sewage plant. It carried by the large margin of 244 "yes" votes to only 85 "no" votes.

Land was purchased along the river just west of 12th Avenue for the location of the sewage treatment facility.

In 1949, another election was held for a bond issue to extend the sewer lines and was again passed. Sewer lines were then extended to many of the fringe areas which previous to that time, had had to rely on their own septic tanks.

April 23, 1963, another election was held for funds with which to build a new sewage treatment plant. It narrowly missed defeat by a vote of 601 "yes" votes to 600 "no" votes. The new plant is at the same location as the old. In 1964, a sewer lift station was built east of the canal.

To help pay for these new improvements, each resident and business connected to the sewer lines pays a fee on his utility bill each month.

THE WATER DEPARTMENT

Prior to 1959, all residents and businesses purchased their water directly from the Northern Illinois Water Corporation. In 1958, the city decided to investigate the possibility of purchasing the waterworks system serving the city of Rock Falls and extending and improving said system and making sewer improvements in conjunction therewith and financing this project by the issuance of bonds payable solely from the revenues of the waterworks and sewer systems.

In August of 1958, the Citizens' Water Committee's report on the purchase of the water system was approved by the city council. In February of 1959, the council passed an ordinance creating an issue of \$1,350,000 water revenue bonds to pay for the new water system.

During the period of construction, the city purchased water from Northern Illinois Water Corporation and resold it to residents.

Land was purchased, wells were drilled and in 1960 the new storage tank was erected. Lines were extended and improved and the city now has a fine new water system of its own.



Egbert Wilson - First Mayor of Rock Falls, 1889-1891

CEMETERIES

Little can be found about the first cemetery in Coloma Township or Rock Falls. Rumor has it at one time, a small cemetery plot was located on the corner of Dixon Avenue and First Avenue, but no record is found of the number of graves or when they were removed to what now is the I.O.O.F. Cemetery.

In 1889, the town board appointed a committee consisting of J. H. Patterson, K. Woodford and L.H. Woodworth, to purchase ground for a cemetery. \$200 had been appropriated the previous year for this purpose. The 1877 plat map of the township does not show a cemetery.

The I.O.O.F. Cemetery was established in 1883. There are a number of tombstones which pre-date this, which were undoubtedly moved from another location. Among these stones were Joseph Wright's wife, we believe, "Lou born in 1857 - died in 1882". His father and mother, Mary M. Wright 1819-1912, and Hugh Wright 1798-1895. These graves were removed from Montmorency Cemetery in 1927. Joseph Wright had a long life, born 1848, died 1944. Another early grave was Sarah Ann Murray, 1841-1858. Her grave-stone is engraved:

"Weep not for me, my mother dear

I am not dead, but sleeping here".

A brother, Coburn Murray, 1822-1868, was also here as well as Elizabeth Murray, born 1820 and died 1872 and is on the same plot.

A.C. Stanley was the first treasurer of the I.O.O.F. Cemetery. The third lot sold was to T. Stevenson, who purchased a lot for \$10.00.

The I.O.O.F. Cemetery was shaded by large evergreens for a number of years. However, when a large flock of birds began using these trees for nesting and sleeping quarters, the cemetery was cleared to keep the gravestones clean and to let grass grow on the grave lots. Some of the early pioneers sleeping here are: John L. Morrill, 1823-1898; George Adair, 1827-1906; J.B. Mingle, 1834-1896; L.H. Woodworth, 1806-1902; Henry Price, 1830-1892; G. Rosengren, 1835-1905; Joseph Bickford, 1830-1897; Thomas Robinson, born in Wilkeshire, England, 1801-1901; Captain Wm. Parker, 1835-1907.

In the Arey family plot were found the following: Sarah Arey, 1844-1914; Cpl. Richard Arey, no date; James C. Arey, a Civil War Veteran, 1837-1913; his wife Mary, 1838-1923.

The Odd Fellows have made many improvements and additions to the cemetery through the years. They have added ground to the south of the old cemetery which will provide adequate space for burials for many years to come.



1967 City Council

Standing back row: City Attorney, Jacob Cantlin; Aldermen Albert Jensen, Joseph Padilla, James Baker; City Clerk Earl Forehand; Aldermen Henry Bright and Paul Fulrath. Second row: Aldermen Wilbur McNinch, Oscar Werland and Ernest Canley. Seated at desk: Mayor Louis J. Pignatelli.

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ROCK FALLS, ILLINOIS

THE ROCK FALLS POST OFFICE

The first post office on the south side of the Rock River was established in 1847 in what was then called Rapids Precinct. Artemus Worthington was the postmaster. A mail route on the south side of the river from Dixon to Prophetstown was also established, but was discontinued after a short time.

The first post office in Rock Falls was established on March 11, 1868. Truman Culver was the postmaster and he had the post office in his grocery store, which stood at the corner of Main and May, now West Second and Second Avenue. Mr. Culver was postmaster until 1872 or 1873 when C.K. Brown took over. J.B. Ralph succeeded Mr. Brown, serving from 1877 to 1882. During the year ending June 30, 1878, postal receipts were \$3,201.40. The first money order was issued July 6, 1874. The remitter was Orson Scott, amount \$10.00 and fee 5¢. James Pettigrew succeeded Mr. Ralph, serving from 1882 until 1886. Next came Robert McNeil who served until 1890. Freeman Rosebrook next serving from 1890 to 1894 and Joseph Wright succeeded him and served until 1898. Andrew Goodell was the next postmaster and served until 1906. During his administration, rural mail delivery was begun. There were three carriers, they being Darius Underwood, Charles Atkins and George Deyo.



Aug Bassett, an early rural mail carrier. He is the father of George Bassett, who began carrying mail on the rural route June 16, 1911. He died in 1937 while still with the department.

Captain Wm. Parker served from March 1906 until December of 1907. He died in service and his wife, Edna was acting postmistress until February 1908. Ex-Mayor Rollin H. Woods succeeded Mrs. Parker and served until August 18, 1914. Charles C. Grady served from that date until August 31, 1923. It was during his administration city delivery was begun on April 1, 1918. The first regular carriers were Charles F. Willett and Kenneth Stone, with Delbert Wright as substitute carrier. It was also during his administration that the post office at Rock Falls changed from third class to second class. With this change, employees were subject to civil service rules and regulations.

Earl L. Longfellow became acting postmaster on September 1, 1923 and received his regular appointment on March 1, 1924 and served until August 31, 1933. Succeeding him was Robert E. Harper, who was postmaster until his death in March, 1940. William F. Klocke, assistant postmaster since 1913, managed the post office until Charles H. Beien was appointed acting postmaster on April 9, 1940. Mr. Beien was commissioned on April 21, 1941 and was postmaster until April 30, 1958, at which time he retired. Elmer J. Leusby became acting postmaster on May 1, 1958 and was commissioned on May 13, 1959.

Aside from Mrs. Parker, who was acting postmistress for two months, only two other women have worked in the post office. Alice Presbry (Arnold), became money order clerk on May 28, 1908 and served until her retirement in the early 1940's. Ann Rossiter also worked briefly at the post office.

After the post office left Mr. Culver's Grocery Store, we have found no records stating where the post offices were. It was at 203 West Second for a time and then moved back to the Culver Building, which it occupied until the new post office was built in 1937 and 1938. The new building was occupied on February 12, 1938.

It is now a first class post office. The 1966 postal receipts were \$119,000.

In addition to Mr. Leusby, who has been with the postal department since 1935, and the assistant postmaster, George Gronis, who is a nephew of Wm. Klocke, there are 25 other employees. There are now but two rural routes using two carriers. There are 9 city carriers and the balance are employed in other capacities.

The post office has received a beautification award this year. A citation of merit was presented Mr. Leusby at the Rock Falls Woman's Club meeting on April 11. The citation was presented to the post office on behalf of the citizens of the community as a result of the renovation of the grounds, the planting of new evergreens and the complete repainting of the exterior of the post office, the yearly planting of flowers and the attractive appearance of the building and grounds. Rock Falls was one of only three post offices in the country to receive this award in President Johnson's Program of Natural Beauty, designed to improve the landscape of the nation.

There are three retired personnel of the post office still living. Charles Beien retired on April 30, 1958. Arthur Ross began service in Mt. Carroll on September 1, 1920 and was transferred to Rock Falls on October 1, 1934. He retired December 1, 1957, having served thirty seven years. He began in the horse and buggy era and continued through the airmail era. He was a rural carrier all during this time.

Frank Stephenson, also retired, began working for the post office on November 1, 1941 and retired February 1, 1961. He was a city carrier.

PARK DISTRICT, TOWN OF COLOMA

On April 16, 1925, Jacob Cantlin, H.W. Moates and Charles Smith met in the office of Attorney Cantlin and the "Park District, Town of Coloma" was formed. The officers were: President Jacob Cantlin; Secretary and Treasurer Charles A. Smith. At the time of this organization, the only park in Coloma Township was Triangle Park, belonging to the city. This park (Triangle), was donated to the city of Rock Falls in 1892 by Abner L. Merrill. The name given to the park at that time was Tracy Park. It was later turned over to Coloma Park District. The name Triangle Park was changed to Veterans Memorial Park at the time that the bandshell was completed in 1958 and dedicated to all men and women who had served in all wars. This park is located between 5th and 6th Avenues adjacent to West 5th Street.



Lawrence Park was donated to the Sterling Park Board and the Park District of Coloma. This was donated by the Lawrence family. On October 20, 1926, it was agreed that all expenses of caring for the upkeep of the park and the erection of buildings and pool should be on the ratio of 80 to 20%.

Nims was the next park organized in Rock Falls, located at the east end of Third Street along Avenue E. It was donated to the Park District by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schoof (Bessie Nims) on April 8, 1940. It was given by them in memory of her parents. On April 15, 1947, the park board leased the land which ran from the rear of the park to the canal from the Federal Government and have since then, kept it up for additional play ground. Here is a large shelter house with four fire places. Ball diamonds and many pieces of play ground equipment are here for the smaller folk.

On September 3, 1947, the Park Board purchased what is now Wallingford Park. This park is located between 7th and 8th Streets. It was purchased from the Fire Department for the sum of \$6,000. Here, we have a modern Little League baseball diamond complete with lights, concession stands, bleachers and rest room facilities. There is also playground equipment for the smaller folks. A hard ball diamond is also located in this park. It was named Wallingford Park in recognition of Mr. Ed Wallingford, who was then president of the board.

About eight years later, land along the river on East Second Street was leased from Mr. P.W. Dillon. At this time, the land had a very heavy undergrowth of brush and had been used as a city dump. It was immediately cleared and filled in with earth. It is now beautifully sodded and planted with many trees, shrubs and flowers. A fireplace and picnic tables have been placed beneath the large oak trees. A black topped drive has been built down to the lower level along the river. Many fishermen find this an ideal place for fishing and mooring their boats.

Dillon Park was purchased in 1955 from the estate of Mr. W.M. Dillon and the park was named for him. Here a modern lighted baseball diamond has been erected with bleachers, concession stands and restrooms. The Babe Ruth League play their games here and it is also the home of the Rockster Girls softball team. This diamond was constructed through the cooperation of the Park Board, Rock Falls Optimist Club and the city of Rock Falls. This park is located between 19th and 21st Streets.

An eight week summer recreation program is conducted in all various parks, at St. Andrews Grade School, East Coloma and Rock Falls High School. This project is under the sponsorship of the Park Board.

The Park Board leased the land at the corner of Prophetstown Road and 14th Avenue from the Elementary School Board. Later they released it to the Optimist Club to be used for a playground. They have a baseball diamond and playground equipment.

Mr. Cantlin's term expired in April 1927 and Charles Burgess was elected. In 1937, Ed Wallingford replaced Mr. Burgess and Grover Lane was also elected, increasing the board to four members. When Mr. Moates passed away in 1939, Frank Seward was elected to fill his place and in 1941, August Schultz was elected to fill the office left by Grover Lane. At the death of August Schultz in 1946, L.O. Hoak was elected and in 1949, he was replaced by Floyd Balla. The Park Board is composed of Norman Eichenberg, Floyd Balla and Frank Seward. George Hinrichs was a member of the board but passed away in February 1967.

COLOMA TOWNSHIP LIBRARY ROCK FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

In the mid nineteen thirties, steps were taken to give Rock Falls its first library. Through the diligent efforts of Rev. James R. Uhlinger along with support of the Rock Falls Woman's Club, interested citizens and with help from the W.P.A., it was accomplished.

During the early years, the library was housed in the old Rock Falls National Bank Building, the Cruse Building and Merrill School. Miss Geneva Hirth was the first librarian and served faithfully until her retirement in 1961. Miss Betty Brown succeeded her and is the present librarian.

The library operated as a W.P.A. project until September 1939, at which time the Coloma Township voted to support a library with a tax levy and the library became the Coloma Township Public Library.

On September 29, 1939, the first elected board was organized with Rev. James R. Uhlinger, chairman, Mrs. Ona Mae Bivans, secretary, Mrs. Anna Grosse, treasurer and Dr. Glenn J. Pohly, Mr. E.I. Lehr and Mrs. Catherine Grothe as members.

The library moved into the Johnston Building on First Avenue in September 1943. Here it served the community for twenty-two years.

In November 1965, the Coloma Township Public Library merged with the city of Rock Falls, thus forming a City-Township library to be known as the Rock Falls Public Library.

The library is now housed in the north wing of the new Municipal Building. The city furnishes the room, utilities and janitor service. They have also equipped the library with new furnishings. The money received from township tax collections, pays for the salaries, books, supplies, etc.

The board consists of nine members, six of whom are elected by the voters of Coloma Township and three who are appointed by the mayor. The mayor automatically appoints the six elected board members. All appointments are confirmed by the city council.

Everyone in the township has library privileges dependent only on library rules and regulations. Those outside the township may have library privileges upon paying a small fee.

The first board of the Rock Falls Public Library was Mr. Clark Hoot, Mr. Kenneth Glover, Mr. Milton Rubin, Mrs. Sue Hendricks, Mrs. Helen McKinney, Mrs. Dorothy Walter, Mr. James Baker, Mrs. Mary Marquis and Mrs. Ann Atilano.

Acknowledgement is hereby made to all the board members and the staff who have served the library so faithfully and with dedication over the years.

URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT

The city of Rock Falls is conducting an Urban Renewal Project, which briefly is doing the following: the city is purchasing 54 acres of poorly developed land near the central part of Rock Falls and is clearing this land of all existing structures. New streets, sewers, water mains, and all other services are being installed. This land is being subdivided into modern residential building lots and is being sold to private builders and home owners who will build the actual dwellings, which will complete the redevelopment.

This development, known as Garden View Subdivision, promises to be one of the nicest residential areas in the city. This project is well on its way to completion, with some of the redeveloped lots ready for sale; several of which have already been sold and are being built upon.

HOUSING FOR FAMILIES WITH LIMITED INCOME

The city of Rock Falls, in cooperation with the Whiteside County Housing Authority, has sponsored and has built many housing units that are exclusively for families and individuals with limited income.

There are as follows:

125 homes for families with the only requirement being that they have a limited income. The rents are based upon the ability of the family to pay. These are located on Coloma Court in Rock Falls.

40 homes for elderly families or individuals with the requirement that the head of the family be 62 years of age or older and also with a limited income; these are located on Garden Circle near East 7th Street and First Avenue.

These 165 units are now in operation and providing good standard housing for many people.

There are now another 100 units for elderly families, being made ready for construction, which will be rented on the same basis.

This housing construction is in addition to many new conventional homes constructed in the recent years and many more under construction now by private builders.

TRANSPORTATION

Until the year 1856, the only transportation into this area, was by wagon, stage coach, on foot or by water. The Rock River has never been too reliable as a means of transportation. As its name implies, it has a rocky bed in many places and this was certainly true in our area. Much time, money and effort was spent in the early days trying to make the old Rock navigable. They even tried removing rocks from the river bed by hand. And of course, in Rapid City days, an effort was made to build a canal around the Rapids, but all to no avail. At high water times, it was possible to navigate as far as Wisconsin. In 1840, the Steamer Gypsy came up the river from the Mississippi and proceeded as far as Janesville, Wisconsin. John Mason acted as pilot to conduct this steamer over the rapids. On the Gypsy's return trip, the water had fallen to such a degree, that by the time she reached the rapids, she could not get over them and had to land on the north side of the river and remove all her cargo and even some of the flooring from the upper deck in order to get over the rapids. The residents of our neighbor city across the river, welcomed the cargo with glee, as a considerable portion of it was whiskey.

In 1841, a flat boat came up the river as far as the rapids and an attempt was made to pole it over the rapids, but it resulted in failure. Since those early days, the river has been used for little except pleasure craft. The first pleasure boat on the river was owned by A. P. Smith. L. C. Thorne, CB&Q station agent in Rock Falls for nearly 40 years, had a 40 foot steam launch shipped here on the railroad. He owned it in partnership with Harry Hubbard. It was shipped to a siding nearest the river where a 100 foot long skid was built at a point just above the First Avenue Bridge and the boat unloaded. The boat, named the Neptune, was a familiar sight for many years and carried many parties up the river as far as Dixon.

In 1856, the railroad came to Sterling. Thus the early settlers of Rock Falls were able to come here by train. The advent of the railroad provided a means of getting the farm and industrial products of the area to Chicago, where they found a ready market. Prior to that, it took many days, by horse and wagon, over difficult trails, fording streams and rivers to get their products to market and bring back the other necessities which they needed.

Not too long after A. P. Smith began the town of Rock Falls, he realized that a railroad directly to our town was a necessity, if we were to attract and keep the industry which we had. He approached the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, which went through Sterling and asked them to build a bridge across the river to Rock Falls. This they refused to do and told him if he must have a railroad, he must build it. This Mr. Smith proceeded to do.



The CB&Q Railroad had secured control of the Rockford, Rock Island and St. Louis Railroad, which was being built from St. Louis and had reached Sterling, when it became bankrupt. Mr. Smith went to them and they told him that if he would obtain the right of way and grade the roadbed from Rock Falls to Shabbona to connect with their St. Paul and Minneapolis line to Chicago, they would lay the rails and operate the road.

Mr. Smith then organized the Chicago and Rock River Railroad with Coloma Township and Montmorency each pledging \$50,000. Harmon Township in Lee County and the various villages and towns through which the road was to pass on its route to Shabbona, a distance of 47 miles, all agreed to help finance the project. But about this time, the supreme court declared unconstitutional, the statute granting aid in this manner. This led to long drawn out litigation, all parties trying to get out of paying what aid they had voted. Coloma Township, which benefited most from the railroad which had voted the \$50,000 with only three dissenting votes, eventually had to pay their share after litigation and interest had boosted it to \$75,000. In return for their money, they received \$50,000 worth of stock in the railroad, which by then was not worth the paper it was written on. The road passed into the hands of the CB&Q before its completion. The CB&Q wanted to build a bridge across the river so as to make them a through line from Chicago to St. Louis and offered to buy the stock from Coloma Township for \$2500, rather than to go to the expense of foreclosing their mortgage. The soap box orators of the day made it difficult to obtain a majority of votes to accept this offer, but it finally was.

By that time, the line had been run down River Street to service all the factories along the mill race and river. A depot was built just north of Third Street on Avenue A. This was a busy depot for many years, carrying passengers and freight. The old depot was torn down in 1966 to make room for a parking lot for the RB&W.

A Mr. Merchant was the first agent for the CB&Q. Mr. Fred Babcock was the second and in 1877, Mr. L. C. Thorne was appointed agent and continued in that capacity until his retirement in 1915. George F. DeMurray succeeded him.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Probably the first taxi service in Rock Falls was begun by Al Berlin. He had two 'cabs! One pulled by a horse, "Old Blind Maude," and the other by two ponies. They took telephone orders at their home, 509 Third Ave., then later from a restaurant, which the family started next to Wylie's Drug Store. When automobiles became popular, Mr. Berlin switched to two cars and later four and became associated with Yellow Cab Co. He operated from Rock Falls for a year or two, then moved the offices to Sterling. This business was later sold to the Ferris'. The business returned to Rock Falls again in 1948, when it was purchased by Wm. Montgomery. The business was first operated from his body shop at 102 12th Avenue and later moved to quarters downtown at 305 West 2nd Street. The Yellow Cab Co. was purchased by E. C. Wolf, Jr. in 1954 and the offices are now located at 1901 1st Avenue. Mr. Wolf also handles rental cars and trucks under National Car Rental Service.

Inter-city transportation was furnished for a number of years by the Twin City Motor Coach Co., owned and operated by Patsy Celantano. Buses and offices were at 317-319 West 2nd Street. This company operated from the late 1930's to the late 1940's. But after the war, when cars became more plentiful, the operation became unprofitable and was discontinued.

All school bus and charter bus business in the area is operated by Thorneway Lines Incorporated, owned by Orville Thome. This business was begun in 1937 and is located on West 14th Street. It began as a moving business and busses were added to the operation in 1942.

The area also has many trucking firms which have terminals in Rock Falls. Among them are the Brada Miller Freight System, Inc., Carstenson Freight Lines Inc., Churchill Truck Lines, Inc., Darling Freight, Inc., General Cartage Co. Inc., Knox Motor Service, Inc., Lambrecht Trucking Co. and Sims Motor Transport. All these have terminals here and operate interstate. In addition, there are many other smaller firms which operate from Rock Falls.

After the discontinuing of passenger service by the CB&Q, Rock Falls has been dependent upon Sterling for train service by the Northwestern Railroad. Even that has dwindled to only one train to and from Chicago a day.

For several years, Trailways Bus Line operated through Rock Falls between Peoria and Freeport. The Greyhound Line stops in Sterling for bus passengers.

WHITESIDE COUNTY AIRPORT

The Rock Falls Airport was founded by Darhal Wolf and Kenny Zimmerman at a site about three miles south of Rock Falls on Route 88. Later it was called Skaggs Field for Leonard Skaggs and his great interest and work for an airport.

When the Sterling Airport decided to cease operations, the State of Illinois felt there should be a County Airport. In 1946, a referendum was held in Whiteside County and was passed. Federal and State authorities deemed the site of Skaggs Field suitable for a county airport. The ground was owned by Cecil Richardson and a gift of ground by him made it possible for the county of Whiteside to accept a state grant. Then, through the Department of Aeronautics in Springfield, the Federal Government participated and a 4000 foot paved runway was established. A hearing by the C.A.B. determined that this community should be served by a common carrier. Ozark Airlines had their initial scheduled flight into the Whiteside County Airport on December 1, 1962 with a DC 3. Now all flights have the F.H. 227 turbo prop equipment.

Whiteside County Airport is one of the few ports in the Ozark system that is served by an air freighter. It makes a scheduled stop every evening and tonnage out of this airport is about fifth out of the 58 stops of Ozark.

A new 5600 foot cross runway was finished in 1966, making possible, stops that occasionally had to be cancelled when there was a cross wind.

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TELEPHONE

On December 2, 1889, the Iowa Union Telephone Company asked for a franchise to construct a telephone outside plant on the streets and alleys in Rock Falls. The request was denied and not passed on "in its present shape", on January 6, 1890. The Iowa Union Telephone Company went ahead with construction work, with a promise that a franchise would be granted. It was not until December 17, 1894, that the official franchise was granted.

Previous to this time, both the Central Union Telephone Company and the Interstate Telephone and Telegraph Company had established open wire circuits across Rock River on top of the old First Avenue iron bridge, to Rock Falls.

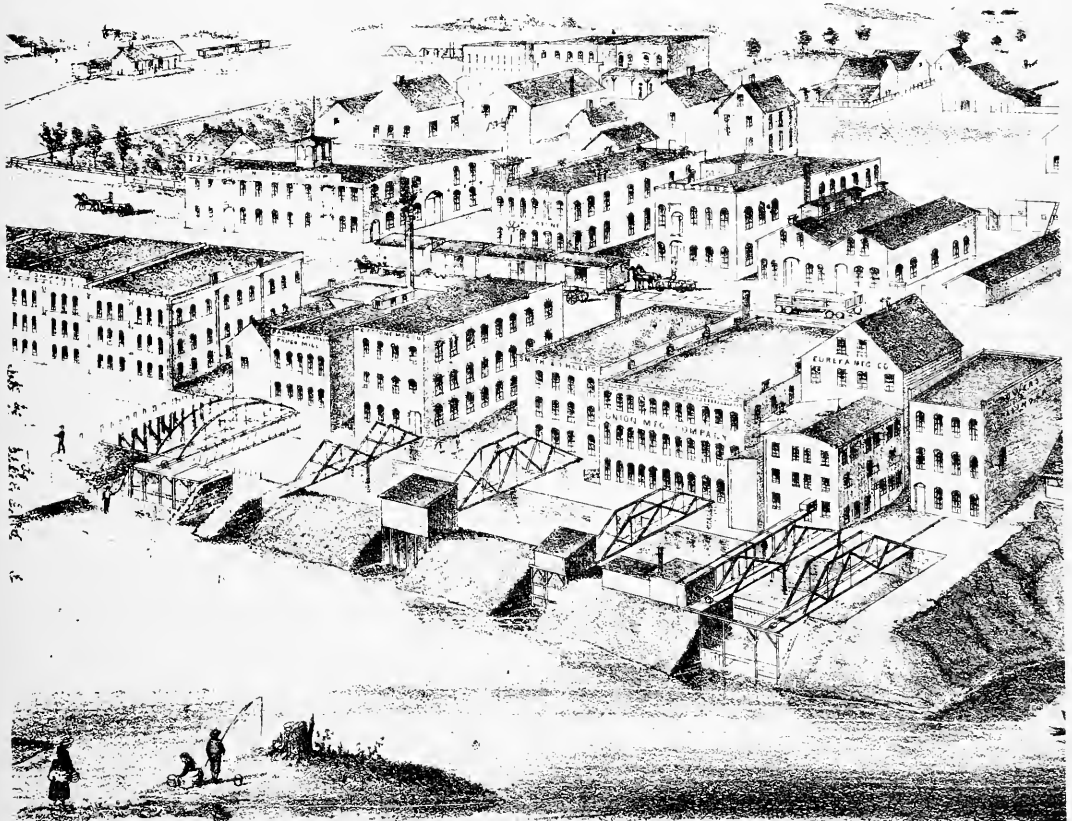
On October 12, 1896, the Central Union Telephone Co. requested a franchise to operate in Rock Falls, but the permit was not issued by the city council until February 6, 1899. At this time, the Central Union Telephone Co. took over the property of the Iowa Union Telephone Company.

The Harrison Telephone Company was also operating in Rock Falls without a franchise, and there were warm discussions on the subject between telephone employees of both companies and the general public. For instance, on the records of the minutes of a council meeting of January 16, 1899, an order was requested that a

Central Union Telephone Co. instrument be removed from the city clerk's office and installed in the electric light plant and a Harrison Telephone Co. telephone be installed in the city clerk's office. Why? No one knows. All of the above information is written into the minutes of the City of Rock Falls by the city clerk and signed by the mayor and councilmen.

In 1900, the Farmers Mutual Telephone Co. was operating a small office upstairs at 207 West 2nd St. Mrs. Ted Williams was the first operator. Later the office was moved to her residence on Fifth Avenue. Mrs. Ada Beales (Glenn) became the operator in 1907 with the office on West Second Street above what is now Sowles Store. The Farmers Mutual Telephone Company had about 40 subscribers and had one-wire circuits built to the farmers south of Rock Falls and into Tampico, Illinois. Mr. N. L. McKinzie was the manager of the Telephone Company at that time. The office worked from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. and only answered doctor calls after that time. Mrs. Beales was the operator for four years.

January 6, 1916, the switchboard was removed from Rock Falls and the phones were connected to the Tampico lines until September 1919. At that time they were taken over by the Northern Illinois Bell Telephone Company, where they have remained.



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PEBBLES ON THE BEACH OF BUSINESS PROGRESS

The life stream of any community is the business it enjoys. As we look down through the pages of the past, we find many names who have contributed to the life of the community in the business activity they carried on.

The nursery of W.E. Lukens preceded the organization of our Rock Falls as a city. He purchased the site from Mr. Merrill in 1861 and improvements began the following year. The 11-1/2 acres lie between what is now 5th and 6th Avenues, from Second Street south to Fifth Street. The Lukens's residence occupied the southwest corner of Second Street and Sixth Avenue. The nursery went under the name of "Coloma Nursery", and was described as one of the most beautiful locations in the city. During the 70's, he offered for sale, "8,000 Norway spruces for dooryards and hedges and 10,000 Scotch pines, the best groves or windbreaks on sandy soil". He had apple and cherry trees and grape vines. Some of these spruce and pine trees may still be seen in the neighborhood.

When the demands for lots increased, around 1875, Lukens decided to lay out his nursery in town lots. In the fall of 1876, it was platted and lots were offered for sale. He advertised these as choice lots, complete with 40 to 50 feet of hedge, most with ornamental and fruit trees thereon, where good wells of never-failing water can be had with pump for \$12 to \$18, and entirely dry cellars. Prices low and ample time given."

Dr. J.L. Morrill, the first physician in Rock Falls, bought the first lot offered for sale by Lukens for \$880 in 1876. He immediately built the house standing at 300 Fifth Avenue.

A.D. Hapgood, moved a building from Como in which he established a general merchandise store in 1867. The store was not profitable. This building became part of the Baltic House, later known as the Brewer House and was situated where the "Corner Tap" is now located.

In 1867, Truman Culver erected a building on the corner of Second Avenue and West Second Street. This was the first new business building built in Rock Falls and Mr. Culver opened a grocery store in it.

In 1868, Newton and Muckeridge came from Como and opened a general merchandise store in a building erected across the street north from the Culver Building. Mr. Muckeridge, the next year, returned to Como with the dry good business. Mr. Newton retained the grocery store, later, about 1880, selling to A.C. Stanley.

The first drug store in Rock Falls was started in 1868 by the grandfather of Dean Bickford, who was a well known Sterling druggist for years. Goodell and Ingals opened a hardware store in 1868.

Ephraim Brookfield came to Rock Falls from Coleta and opened the first bank in 1874.

The Bert Marfleet home, which was torn down and is now the city parking lot, directly behind the Rock Falls School of Beauty, was originally the Rock Falls House, one of Rock Falls early hotels.

As we move on into today's business world, we find some members of our community who have been here from the early 1900's, who are still carrying on today. Jacob Cantlin, Attorney-at-law, came to Rock Falls in June 1907. He is a lawyer who has served the community well for over 60 years, not only practicing law, but also friendship as well. "Jake" has a host of friends in our community. Mr. Cantlin was born in Williams, Iowa, January 5, 1885, while his mother was visiting there. His permanent home was Earlville. At 15, the family moved to Tampico, where he completed school. He graduated from the University of Illinois, School of Law in 1906. He married Darlene West of Tampico, May 10, 1911 and to this union, four daughters were born. Jacob has served as city attorney for a number of years. He has been active in community affairs and one of the shining moments of "Jake's" career was presiding as Interlocutor at the minstrel shows, which were produced by the Business Association in the 40's and 50's.

The Johnston Lumber Company has a long period of service to Rock Falls. The Wheeler-Brown Company was taken over by the Johnston Family in 1907 and has been operated in the same location for the past sixty years. Robert E. Johnston was secretary-treasurer of the firm in Rock Falls, the company also having lumber yards in other communities in this area. Mr. Johnston was born April 21, 1877, near Galva, Illinois. In 1905, he married Alda Born and they had four children. The youngest son, Gene, is now head of the Johnston firm, which continues to serve the building needs of our community.

Rubin is a familiar name to every resident of Rock Falls and has been a familiar name for over sixty years. "Joe" Rubin began business in 1905, at 414 Second Avenue. First he did paperhanging and sold dry goods. Later, he added cars to his line of merchandise, when cars were still a novelty. At this time, he also began dealing in scrap iron. In 1919, he moved to the present location on West Second Street, where he added coal to his scrap iron business. Mr. Rubin passed away in 1940. However, by this time, he had been joined in business by his sons, Isadore and Milton, who have continued in the business. Coal and scrap iron have passed from existence as far as today's business is concerned, but Milt and Ike have one of the largest used car lots in this area. Another son of Joe is Louis Rubin, who is a well-known Dermatologist in Rockford, having for his patients many Rock Falls folks. Another son, Samuel, was an Attorney-at-law, having been associated with Mr. Cantlin for a number of years. Sam died in the early 1960's.

One of the most remembered treats to many old timers will be a "Soda at Daniels". This firm has catered to sweet-tooth of many a person over a long period of time. Peter Daniels came to Rock Falls in 1910 and opened a confectionery store at 205 West Second St. Peter died in 1919 enroute to his homeland, Greece and was buried at sea. His son, Louis, ably carried on the Daniels Store and the tradition of good candy until "Danny" was able to take his place in the operation of the business. In 1928, the present location was purchased from W.J. Sowles. Louis retired to Ft. Myers, Florida in 1957. "Danny" still continues to operate the store at 215 West Second St., known as Daniels Grill. During the winter months, Danny still makes the delicious home-made candies for which the firm has been famous. In fact, the piece of marble used to mix and roll these toothsome goodies is the original piece brought from Greece by Danny's father.

Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Sowles Sr. moved to Rock Falls, Illinois in 1905 and purchased the Hubbard and Morrison Grocery Store, located in the building now occupied by the Crystal Barber Shop. Some years later, they purchased the building just west and moved the grocery store to this location - 207 West Second Street, now occupied by Daniel's Store. As the town developed, a number of citizens formed a corporation under the name of W.J. Sowles Dry Goods Co. and opened a dry goods and millinery store on First Avenue in the building now being used by Illinois Kitchen Center. As a matter of bringing the two business enterprises together, the building at 209 West Second St. was purchased from Claude Melvin and the grocery store was moved one door west and the dry goods was moved from First Avenue to 207 West Second St. An archway was cut between the two buildings and this operation existed for several years.

After considerable thought, Mr. Sowles decided to give all his time to the dry goods business and enlarged the building at 209 West Second St. and moved to this address.

Daniels Brothers purchased the former location at 207 West Second St. and this building is still being used and operated as "Daniel's Grill".

In the year 1931, W.J. Sowles passed away and his son, then employed at Bradley's Clothing Store in Sterling, Illinois, came to Rock Falls and took over the operation of the store. As the depression clouds cleared and all business was improving, need for additional space brought about the purchase of the adjoining building to the west, housing the Goldfuss Men's Clothing and Shoe Store. After remodeling the building, the ready-to-wear department was enlarged and moved into this building which is occupied at this time.

The need for an enlarged infant's and children's department was very evident and the building at 213, owned by Joe Sullivan, became available and was purchased for the above mentioned department.

Sowles Store now occupies 3 rooms, 209-211-213 West Second St. and have had a continuous store operation in Rock Falls since 1905.

Daggett's is an old familiar name in Rock Falls. Daggett and Fenn operated a partnership drug store in Prophetstown, and Fenn operated a drug store in Rock Falls at 101 West Second St. In 1911, the Prophetstown partnership dissolved and H.F. Daggett took over the Rock Falls Store, which was in a corner of the Geyer Bldg. Besides drugs, the store had a soda fountain, paints and clock and watch repairs. Two names long associated with Daggett's was John Dancy as Pharmacist and Ike Greene as watch repair man.

In 1938, the store moved across First Avenue to 203, in the building which is owned by the Wheeler Estate. At this time, his

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H. F. Daggett, Geo. Curtis, Cap Saunders and a salesman

son-in-law, Ross Lennox, joined the firm. Mrs. Lennox was the former Helen Daggett. Stan Bardo purchased the drug store in 1916. However, Ross retained the jewelry business and opened his first store in 205-1/2 First Avenue. Mr. Daggett retired and passed away in 1950. In 1956, a new building for the jewelry store was opened at 209 Second Avenue, across from the Rock Falls post office, where it is still operated under the name of Daggett's Jewel Box.

S.E. Wheelock came to Rock Falls in 1913 from Manlius, Illinois. Mr. Wheelock purchased the furniture store of F.H. Geyer, located at the corner of First Avenue and West Second Street. He did not confine his efforts to furniture alone, but operated a funeral parlor in the same location. In 1936, Wheelock's opened a new funeral home at the corner of First Avenue and 3rd Avenue, this being known as Wheelock-Allen. Both sons, Jay Loomis and Elbert K., helped in the funeral business as both were licensed morticians. After Daggett's moved from the corner location, the furniture store was completely remodeled in 1938, making a much larger store. This store was destroyed by fire in 1950. The store was rebuilt on the same location, being run by Jay Loomis and Elbert. S.E. Wheelock died in 1944 and Jay Loomis passed away early this year, 1967. Elbert still operates the furniture store.

The Moulton Drug Store has been in existence since early Rock Falls, having first been A.L. Lemon Store. This business was purchased by T.J. Wylie in 1910, who continued to operate the store until his death in 1946. The Wylie Drug Store was a favorite hang-out for the young crowd on Sunday afternoons when the soda fountain was in full swing. Ray Moulton came to work for T.J. in 1925 and upon the death of Mr. Wylie, he purchased the store in 1946. The store still operates in the same location, having changed from an old fashioned store to a modern self-service store without a soda fountain. Mrs. Wylie is living in Moline with her daughter, Mrs. Rita Potter.

The S & K Clothing Store has a long history of service in Rock Falls, though not always under this familiar name. Eugene Gray had a men's haberdashery located next to Wheelock's on West Second St. This location later became Mar-Jean Variety. It is now occupied by the New Hurdle Hardware Store. Gene operated the men's store for many years and later took his son Seth into business with him. Seth moved the store into the Frank's Building at the northwest corner of First Avenue and West Second Street. Seth sold haberdashery, men's clothing and women's shoes. It seems Rock Falls has trouble keeping a shoe store. Following World War II, Seth sold the clothing store to Albert Klocke and John Sumption, who operate the store under the name of S and K, continuing to serve the community with men and boys' wear. One of the improvements made during the past year has been "A Big Wheel" shop, catering to boys' needs.

Longfellow's was a familiar name to many men and boys, and yet, today we often hear someone say, I'm going down to "Jum's". This billiard parlor is now known as Hudson and Schwab, operating in the same location for over fifty years.

We would be remiss if we did not mention the Washburn Grocery Store which was a Rock Falls landmark for many years. The Washburn building still stands and is the location of "Tim's House of Bargains". After the Washburn family gave up the store, it continued to be operated in the same manner by Russell Short. Changes

were not made until in the 1940's, when the Greer family bought the store and completely renovated it.

Pippert's Market was also a land mark for many old timers, having been operated as a meat market through three generations. The market is now the location of the Ideal Cleaners. The last of the Pippert Family, Golder, sold the store to Williams and Leaf, upon his retirement. The picture here shows a display of fresh meat carried in the market during the early 1900's.



Pippert Brothers where Ideal cleaners is now located

A wagon shop was located in the building which is now the Commerce House. This wagon shop and blacksmith shop was run by George Adair, and was sold to Ed Knabe, who operated a hardware store and a sheet metal shop in this location for a number of years. Upon the death of Mr. Knabe, his sons ran the business, with Paul keeping the hardware section and "Bud" operating the heating department. When the building was sold to settle the estate of Mr. Knabe, Paul closed out the hardware store and "Bud" continued with the heating in another location. Since the close of Knabe's, the building has been operated with two stores, one side being the Rock Falls Gambles Store, owned by Clarence Bressler, and the other the Commerce House, owned by Cal Triggs.

A number of businesses need to be mentioned, yet space does not allow for us to go back through the years trying to find who has been in business in Rock Falls. Some of the names that may have a meaning are: Metzler Shoe Repair Shop, Terlizzi's Grocery, Mower's Grocery, Lazios Confectionery, Vanetti's Confectionery, Pignatelli's Confectionery - which was operated by a brother of our present Mayor, Louis Pignatelli, Chris Scheler Implements, Clapper Poultry House, McBeth Liquor Store, Leuschke's Modern Pastry Shop, Kelsey's Harness Shop, E.U. Taylor Hardware, Tehans Grocery, Klocke Bros. Saloon, Ed Limind Cigar Store, Stanley and Stanley Grocery and Bakery, Whitney Hotel, Pippert Hotel, Gudeman Grocery, Van Drew Co., Garardi Grocery, Bonardi Shoe Shop, Goldfuss Economy Store, Teach Blacksmith Shop, Teach and Bracken Blacksmiths, Pollock's Variety Store, Roxy Theatre, Strand Theatre, Schofield Saloon, E. Pichiotti Confectionery, Worman's Shoe Shop, Ted's Barber Shop, Glenn Beales Barber and many many more who were active in Rock Falls.

Though less than fifty years old, we have a number of businesses which have been established in one generation and is now moving on into the second... Oltman's Grocery was purchased by Louis Oltman from Jens Johannsen in 1923, in the area then known as Garden City. Mr. Oltman passed away in 1937 and his daughter Leona, with the assistance of her brother Herman, operated the store. In 1947, Leona married Ray Ruckdeschel and he too, entered the grocery business, having been in merchandising in Chicago before coming to Rock Falls. In 1953, Ray and Leona bought Herman's share of the business and the store is still operating in the same location under the name of Ray's Certified Grocery.

Frank Seward came to Rock Falls in 1931. He purchased a small store and filling station at the corner of West Fifth Street and Eleventh Avenue. During World War II, Frank rebuilt the building and enlarged his store, which he continues to operate today with the help of his wife, Esther. The last gas pump from the station was removed about three years ago.

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in 1925. "Gar" Hurdle came to Rock Falls from Polo, where he had been in the hardware business. He purchased Rosengren and Sheldon Hardware, located at 221 West Second Street. "Gar" tells us a fire started in the store one very very cold night, when it was about 5 below zero, and when the fire was extinguished and damages were assessed, it was decided to move to a new location, which was at the corner of Second Avenue and Second Street. Mr. Hurdle is presently the oldest business man on the street. His son John, now actively operates the business and perhaps before this booklet is finished, will have moved into his new location at 105 West Second St., which will about double the capacity of the present hardware store.

Rock Falls has a history of two Rock Falls dairies, the first begun by George Hendryx in 1915. This started on a farm on the Buell Road and later was moved to the large farm property just south of what is now Route 30 and on Route 88, or the Golder Road. Hey Brothers bought the dairy in 1918.



The second Rock Falls Dairy was established in 1932. Peter Kaup, who was experienced in the dairy business, came here from Chicago and opened business in the building which still stands at the corner of West Second Street and Fourth Avenue. This building is now owned and occupied by the Eagles Lodge. This soon became too small for their operation and they moved to 105 East Third Street, where they continued to grow, finally in 1948, building a new modern plant at 1301 West Second Street. With the completion of the new plant, they started the manufacture of ice cream, which they still do and which is served at their dairy bar. Peter Kaup passed away in 1966. However, Henry and Elizabeth Kaup are still operating the business which their father started. Mrs. Kaup is still living.

The Hill Electric Company is nearing the fifty year mark. Max Hill began an electric shop in 1925 in the old Teach Blacksmith Shop, located on West Second Street. From there, he moved to the Mower Building on First Avenue and then to a brick building which was located across from the Rock Falls Congregational Church, now the site of the Rock Falls National Bank. This was a new building in 1933. However, as the company grew and expanded, the building grew and expanded with it, until today it occupies two full store fronts. Max is gradually retiring from the company, whose business is motor rewinding and switchboard work. Max has trained Robert Sanduskey, who is keeping the Hill Company going.

Another Hill name which has become well known in Rock Falls recently, is Gary P. Hill, son of Max, who is in the real estate business and has built a beautiful modern office on the location of the Par Whitney property on First Avenue.

The Humphrey Insurance Agency was started here in 1939 by Otis Humphrey. Otis and his wife Lucille, came here from Morrison, Illinois. They started business in the old Culver Building, which is now one of the Kadle Buildings, from there moving to a large office over the Rock Falls National Bank, when it was located at the corner of First Avenue and West Second Street. When their son, Dale, finished schooling, he entered the business with his parents and they now have an office on the ground floor at 209 First Avenue. Mr. Humphrey passed away in March of this year. The business is continuing under the guidance of Mrs. Humphrey and son, Dale.

Dr. Glenn J. Pohly came to Rock Falls in 1931 to begin his practice of medicine. His first office was located on Second Avenue,

next to the Rock Falls Post Office. Moving from there to the old Rock Falls Bank Building on West Second Street. Dr. Pohly has had a long continuous service in Rock Falls. Dr. Pohly graduated from North Central College of Liberal Arts and received his medical degree from Northwestern Medical School. For contributions he made to the Research Hospital during the war years, he was made a member of the staff. He has had commendation from five presidents for his continuous service to the Whiteside County Selective Service Board, as a medical examiner.

He is active in civic, church and school affairs. He is past president of the Whiteside County Medical Association, served 3 terms as Chief of Staff at Community General Hospital, is a member of the American Medical Association and the Academy of General Practice. He has been health officer of Rock Falls for many years and is still serving in this capacity.

He is a past president of Sterling-Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce, past president of Rock Falls Rotary, Salvation Army and YMCA Board. He is a charter member of the Sunday Evening Club and is still serving on same. A member of the Methodist Church, he has served the church in many capacities.

Dr. Pohly has this year moved into a new office, located at 815 First Avenue.

Dr. Ahrens, Optometrist, has been in Rock Falls a long time and is now located in the building which is also occupied by Dr. Fonder, who is an Orthodontist. This building is located next to Ideal Cleaners and makes a good professional building for Rock Falls.

Another professional building is located at 105 Dixon Avenue, where Dr. Jack Alter and Dr. Hubbard have offices. Moving east on Dixon Avenue across the canal bridge, we have a professional building which is occupied by Dr. Wilkin, dentist, Dr. DeWeerth, dentist and Drs. Tom and John McDonald. Dr. Tom McDonald came to Rock Falls to take over the practice which had been Dr. Allen's.

The newest addition to our business community was built about 1960, when Robert Wilkins purchased the "Pine Grove", which belonged to the Oltman family, and on it constructed the "Pine Grove Shopping Center". This consists of a huge supermarket, a restaurant, bakery, self-service laundry and dry cleaning plant. About two years ago, a new building was added to the unit which is now the location of the "Scott" Variety Store. There is off street parking for about 250 to 300 cars and entrances can be gained from First Avenue or from West 12th Street. This new addition to the business life of the community continues to keep us growing and improving.

BANKING IN ROCK FALLS

Rock Falls' first bank was established in October 1874 and was called the Exchange Bank. The founder was Ephraim Brookfield of Coleta, who managed the bank for about two years and because of illness turned his interests over to George W. Nance, who had worked in the bank from its beginning. It is not known how long this bank operated or when it ceased operations.



First National Bank corner, Rock Falls, Ill.

However, sometime prior to the 1900's, the Lund Brothers and Sophus Richards organized and opened the First National Bank. It was located in the Culver Building and derived its capital from Minnesota. The president of the bank was O.E. Maxon until 1911 when L.P. McMillan took over the management as its executive officer. He bought two old frame buildings on the north side of West

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Second Street, demolished them and built the building which now houses the State of Illinois Unemployment Office. In its new quarters, the bank prospered through the early 1900's, but it too, was doomed to be caught in the web of economic decline which started with the stock market crash in 1929 and carrying through the next three years of business decline and bank failures. On June 6, 1932, the First National Bank of Rock Falls closed its doors and went into receivership, being liquidated over a period of several years. When the building was offered for sale, a group of businessmen banded together with the intention of purchasing the building and starting a new bank in the interest of the community. However, they were unsuccessful in securing the property and Rock Falls was without its own banking facilities until the Rock Falls Business Association came into being. This organization decided that a bank in Rock Falls seemed best for the welfare of the community. An application was filed, a charter was granted, and on November 23, 1945, Rock Falls National Bank opened its doors at 201 First Avenue, the former location of Terlizzi's Grocery Store. The first officers were: William J. Sowles, president, Henry N. Kaup, vice president, Frank J. Reichardt, executive vice president and William J. Keenan, cashier. Directors were: William J. Sowles, Henry N. Kaup, Danny P. Daniels, Jay L. Wheelock, Otis J. Humphrey, Arthur J. Franks, W. Wilson King, Max A. Hill and Joe N. Sullivan. Fifteen years later, with deposits in excess of \$5 million, the Congregational Church and parsonage was purchased and demolished and a modern one-story bank building was erected and on February 1, 1960, the bank moved into its new quarters at 300-302 First Avenue. Rock Falls National Bank is now a \$10 million bank with the following directors and officers: William J. Sowles, president, Henry N. Kaup, vice president, Frank J. Reichardt, executive vice president, Danny P. Daniels, Arthur J. Frank, Max A. Hill, Elbert K. Wheelock. Additional officers are William J. Keenan, cashier, Miss Pauline Howe and Gilbert Moothart, assistant cashiers.



SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS IN ROCK FALLS

In 1887, another financial institution was in existence in Rock Falls in the form of a Building and Loan Association. A. C. Stanley was president; Robert McNeil, vice president; Isaac Bush, secretary and James Pettigrew, treasurer. History records a similar association or perhaps a continuation of this earlier one in 1896 and 1897, with Mayor R. L. Leitch as its president. What happened to these early institutions is not known, but by the early 1900's, neither were in operation any longer. In 1962, a group of business and professional men decided that a building and loan association would be feasible on the Rock Falls side of the river. Accordingly, the Rock Falls Savings and Loan Association was organized and chartered as a state savings and loan association. This organization has had a fine growth under the founding and present officers: John M. Dillon, president; Ray H. Pettit, vice president; Dr. Leroy Danreiter, secretary; Merrill M. Benson, assistant secretary; John Lawrence, assistant secretary; Calvin L. Morgan, assistant secretary; William E. Hill, Jr., treasurer and Kennard J. Besse, legal council.

STONE INSURANCE AGENCY

The Stone Insurance Agency was founded in 1906 by Mr. W. T. Stone in Rock Falls, Illinois, who owned and operated the agency until the time of his death in March of 1938. At this time, his son, Mr. Kenneth Stone took over the Agency and operated it until February 1, 1940. It was then sold to Mr. George H. Stone. (Mr. George Stone was no relation to W. T., But retained the Stone reputation. Mr. George H. Stone operated the agency until March 1, 1959 when it was then sold to the present owners, Mr. William F. Klock and Mr. Lyle M. Book. The agency has grown steadily and is now one of the largest agencies in this area, handling most all types of insurance coverage.

THE ROARING PRESS

The history of any community would not be complete without some mention of the printed word. Today, we have television and radio, yet the power of the press is undisputed.

In the early days of our town, many attempts were made to establish newspapers. The Rock Falls Progress began publication in 1870. Cadwell and Tuttle were the publishers. However, due to the continued illness of Mr. Cadwell, the paper ceased publication seven years later.

A. J. Booth and Co. publishers came to Rock Falls from Morrison in 1876. They published the Whiteside Times and also published a city directory in 1877, numerous copies of which are still about. They continued publication of the paper until May 1878 when they leased the office to Hyde and Searle, who continued for one more year.

Elmer Searle of the firm of Hyde and Searle, started publication of Searle Times, with Cadwell and Tuttle doing the printing. The paper was short lived, dying after three months of publication.

The "Ensign of Liberty" was the next publication, starting February 25, 1879. J. M. Foley was editor, again Cadwell and Tuttle printed the paper. Within three months it too, died a natural death.

Rock Falls had been without a newspaper for sometime when the Rock Falls News began publication on July 5, 1882 by Capt. William Parker. In 1884, his daughter, Anna F. became his associate. Two years later, she married Charles Lee Mentzer, who purchased a half interest in the business. They then purchased the building at the corner of Third Avenue and Second Street which burned on January 3, 1896. A new outfit was ordered and publication was resumed in the Industrial Building. Capt. Parker sold his interest to Emery L. Bond in 1907 and Mentzer and Bond formed the News Publishing Co. with E. L. Bond as president and Anna Mentzer as secretary. The paper ceased publication about 1913.

Another Rock Falls News began publication in 1917 or 1918. It too, was unsuccessful financially, and shortly after the armistice, ceased publication.

Between 1918 and 1936, there were seven attempts made to establish papers in Rock Falls with each one ending in failure.

In 1936, a weekly mimeograph shopper was started in Rock Falls by Jack Adair. He named it "Rock Falls News", from the original paper started by Capt. Parker. Miss Verna Bruns went to work for him in 1937 and married her boss in 1943. Jack was very active in local civic affairs, helping to promote Rock Falls through the Rock Falls News. He passed away in 1959. Mrs. Adair kept the paper going and in 1963, married Donald C. Ward. The paper has changed to offset printing and is now called Rock Falls Shopping News, servicing the entire Rock Falls area and its rural routes through 31 years of service.

The Rock Falls Record began publication on May 1, 1947. This weekly was edited by Jerry Gamel. In 1948, it was incorporated by a group of local business men with Mr. Gamel remaining as editor. They purchased their own equipment and printed the paper locally. In 1949, B. F. Shaw of Dixon, purchased the paper. The Shaw Co. published a paper twice a week. They discontinued publication in March of 1951.

Rock Falls area has been well serviced through the years by the Daily Gazette, which is published in Sterling. The Gazette was established in 1854, with D. W. Grandon as founder. It is still operated by the Grandon family. Their generosity to all local projects is well known.

The Rockford Morning Star also gives daily news coverage to many homes in Rock Falls.



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THEATERS

At present, Rock Falls is without a movie theater. But this has not always been so. It is believed the first movie house in Rock Falls was the Nickelodeon, operated by E. F. Viering in the early 1900's. It was located in one of the old buildings later torn down to make room for the First National Bank.

During the 1910's and 1920's, Al Berlin (who, during a long and varied career, operated restaurants, confectionery stores, taxicabs and was Chief of Police of Rock Falls), had two theaters in Rock Falls. The Lyric Theater at 203 First Avenue and the Grand Theater in the old Schofield Building at 311 West 2nd St. This building was destroyed by fire in 1966 and has been replaced by a new brick structure. During this period, Sterling had a Blue Law, which forbade movies on Sunday. The Lyric was unable to accommodate the crowds and Mr. Berlin then opened the Grand. Both of these theaters were closed by the late 1920's.

Later, the Fields opened the Roxy Theater at 221 West 2nd St. This was purchased by the Kontos' in 1937 and was operated by them until 1956. Drive-in movies and television spelled the death knell to many such small town movie houses.

CORN CARNIVALS BIG EVENTS IN ROCK FALLS

The corn carnivals held for ten consecutive years from 1910 to 1919, were the biggest events of that period and of almost any period since. They were sponsored by the merchants and interested individuals. These big festivals were held in the fall of the year and drew thousands of people to Rock Falls from miles around. They really put Rock Falls on the map in those good old days.

The streets, store fronts and city buildings were gaily decorated in harvest style at corn carnival time. Sheaves, stalks and ears of corn decorated every building. Farmers brought in samples of their grain, vegetables and poultry to be exhibited and to compete for the blue and red prize ribbons to be awarded by the corn carnival association. The housewives vied with one another for prizes in the displays of fancy goods, cakes, breads and other delicacies of the culinary art.

Besides the exhibits, there were numerous free attractions, the merry-go-round, ferris-wheel, all kinds of novelty, food booths, side shows and lots of other things to make a good time for everybody. Balloon ascensions every afternoon were big features of corn carnival week.

The first corn carnival opened Wednesday, September 28, 1910. Schools were let out part of the time so the students could join in the festivities. On Thursday, considerable excitement was caused when the balloon caught on fire and burned up. The next day, a new balloon arrived and made a fine ascension.

A large horse show was held and was a huge success. Another big feature was the baby show, where 105 babies were shown and six prizes awarded to the best babies.

At the 1911 show, which began on Wednesday, September 27, 114 babies competed for prizes.

At the 1912 corn carnival, balloon ascensions were again held. High Dive stunts were also a big feature of the show and 112 babies were entered in the baby contest.

In 1913, auto day was one of the big attractions. The biggest baby show in the history was held, with 176 babies entered.

In 1914, auto races were a big event and the baby parade was also held with autos. 130 babies were in the baby show.

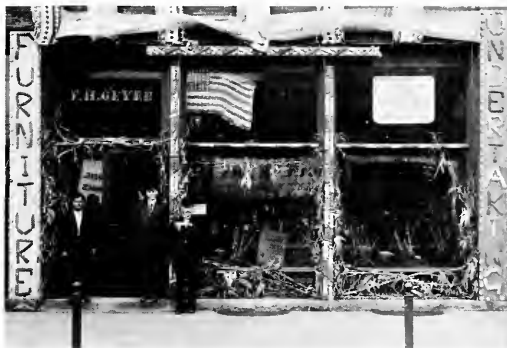
The following years, the carnival was very successful with many of the above events being very popular. It is probably one of the most photographed events in the history of Rock Falls with hundreds of pictures being taken each year and thousands of copies of them being sold.

In 1935, there was a revival of the Corn Carnival, sponsored by the Volunteer Fire Department. The Woman's Club sponsored the ladies exhibits with ribbons for the winners in the culinary arts and fancy handwork.

The Volunteer Fire Department, over several years of holding corn carnivals and raffling off tickets for a new car, which was given away on the last night of the carnival, raised money with which they purchased an ambulance. This was for community use. These carnivals continued until about 1939, when they again were abandoned.



Left to Right in Top Row: Amos Reeves, Will Groter, Fred Billhom, Earl Stanley, Parley Whitney, Fred Smith.
Bottom Row: Joe Walton, C. Nichols, Carl Kimer, George Frye and A. McAllister.



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Rock Falls, over the years, has not been without its fair share of great and near-great performers in the wide world of sports.

The city has had numerous, fine, young athletes who have reached fame (if not fortune) through their persevering, all-out endeavors in their particular chosen sport.

How many towns the size of Rock Falls can boast of having had a world boxing champion? Or one of the nation's first professional football players? Or a man so interested in, devoted to, and active in baseball as to become practically a legend in his own lifetime? Or a man so highly esteemed by his fellowmen for his untiring efforts in promoting good, clean sportsmanship among the younger generation that a stadium is named in his honor? Or the favorable recognition this city has been accorded through many of these young athlete's participation in rugged Big Ten competition?

Couple all the above personalities with the many outstanding football and basketball teams Rock Falls High School has produced over the years and you have a pretty composite picture of just how well Rock Falls measures up to any other city of comparable size when it comes to having representation in the sports world.

On this and subsequent pages, is presented a brief biography of a few of these athletes, inclusive of well deserved mention of a few of the stellar teams they helped immortalize in the hearts of their fellowmen.

Linto Guerrieri

One Rock Falls resident who literally fought his way up the ladder of success, was the late Linto Guerrieri. Guerrieri was born in Cherry, Illinois on November 11, 1915 and passed away in Rock Falls on February 12, 1966.

The ladder of fame - if not fortune - started for Linto in Golden Gloves elimination bouts staged in Sterling, Rockford, Chicago and New York City, where he bested all aspiring-to-champions from this country and Europe to become the 1937 light heavyweight Golden Gloves Amateur Boxing Champion of the world.

Naturally, Linto was not only the toast of Rock Falls and Sterling, but of the entire State of Illinois for the laurels he acquired in the prize-fight ring that year.

For some unaccountable reason, Linto never did turn professional, although he almost did have an encounter with a gentleman of the ring who became quite famous about that era. From that 'almost encounter' stems one of Linto's favorite yarns:

It seems that the Chicago tournament would have pitted the Rock Falls fighter against a fellow whose name would soon become world famous in boxing circles. However, at the last minute before the scheduled bout, another fighter was substituted and was easily defeated by Guerrieri.

To his dying day, Linto humorously maintained that it certainly was a lucky break for "that other fighter" that night. Otherwise, he always laughingly said, no one would probably have ever heard of one of the greatest boxing craftsmen the world has ever known.

The name of that 'lucky' person? You guessed it ... Joe Louis!

Carlo A. Pignatelli

Carlo A. Pignatelli, a son of Francesco and Reginalda Pignatelli, was born in Rock Falls, Illinois on November 25, 1907. He died on June 13, 1964.

Carl was an outstanding athlete in both high school and college. A member of the class of 1926 of Rock Falls High School, he was an all-around athlete and played four years of brilliant varsity football and basketball.

In 1926, Carl entered Iowa University at Iowa City, Iowa, on a basketball scholarship. At Iowa University, he was so outstanding in football that he gave up basketball. From 1927 through 1930, he played on the great Iowa football teams coached by Burt Ingwersen.

After graduating from Iowa University, Carl became one of the first professional football players in the nation. He played for the Ironton Tanks (later the Cleveland Indians) of Ironton, Ohio. The general manager of the Ironton Tanks was Frank Lane.

The "Howe" Story

A man who became practically a legend in this community in his own lifetime, was Roy "Slim" Howe of south Route 88, Rock Falls. Reading "Slim's" biography can almost be compared to reading a page from baseball's "Who's Who".

Born August 12, 1883, in Rogersville, Tennessee, Roy was one of six brothers and one sister. Coming to Rock Falls at the age of 19, Roy worked on numerous local farms during the summer months and for the old Keystone factory here in Rock Falls during the wintertime.

Sunday, however, was his day to play ball and he could always be found on some sandlot with the "boys" pursuing his favorite pastime - baseball.

In 1907, he married Gertrude Frank, the daughter of Theodore Frank, and they settled on a farm just south of the canal bridge on Route 88, where they lived happily together until Roy's tragic and untimely death in 1955. To this marriage, which lasted within a couple of months of a golden one, were born 15 children - nine boys and six girls.

In his youth "Slim" had quite a reputation as a baseball pitcher and whenever a tough team came into the area the local teams would always get Roy to take over the mound chores for the local team. A few of the local men he played baseball with in those days were: Joe and Bill Killian, Hub and Joe Shoaf, Les Devine and Stub Dietz.

When his pitching days were over, he started helping the younger boys in the area. In 1934, he and his sons built the ball park on his farm known as Howe's Field. Never was Roy too busy with the farm work to help a beginner or to participate in some manner in a ball game.



The Montmorency Blues

From left to right, top row: Clarence McCarthy, Edward Dietz, T. Miller. Middle row: Louis Dietz, Lawrence Kelly, John McCormick, Noah Heckel. Seated: Roy "Slim" Howe, Donald Howe and Tony Mergue.

In 1938, the first of his sons made a try for fame in baseball when Robert and William participated in the Minor Leagues; Bob with the Yankee Farms and Bill with the Cardinal Farms. Then came the rumble of World War II and most of the Minor Leagues started to disband for lack of players as the boys started to leave for the service.

Gertrude and Roy Howe contributed more than their fair share in the Great Conflict, having seven sons in World War II and one in the Korean Conflict.

In 1942, Calvin Howe, then only 17 years old, was signed by the Chicago Cubs and went to the Kitty League for a short time, but it closed down shortly and he finished the season with the Wise State League, and so ended the young Howe's careers in baseball until after the war.

In the meantime, however, there was always a team at Howe's Field known as Howe's All Stars. The roster included boys home on leave, fellows too young for the service and older men in the community.

In 1947, the Chicago Cubs hired "Slim" as a baseball scout in this area, a position he held for many years. Over the years, he signed several boys from this area to Cub contracts, including Dean Stone of the Tri-Cities, who played about six years with the Washington Senators and the Minnesota Twins as a pitcher, and, of

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course, his son Calvin, who had a short stay with the Cubs in 1952. He also signed Doug Unger, Howard McCormick, Blase Zera, Gene Taribelda of Rockford and his other son, John Kadel.

According to son Bill, "Slim's" greatest thrill in life probably came on August 18, 1948, when area fans gave John and Calvin a "Howe's Night" at Riverview Ball Park in Clinton, Iowa. As left handed pitching stars, Cal won 18 and lost 4, while brother John won 17 and lost only 6 that season, while playing with the Clinton Cubs of the Central League.

In Bill's words: "The ball park was jammed full of people that night, with about 95 per cent from Rock Falls and Sterling, when the master-of-ceremonies requested over the public address system for "Slim" and Gert to come down to home plate for the gift presentation. "Slim", tall and straight, showed somewhat of a chest that night!"

John K. broke his pitching arm at the end of the 1948 season and had to give up baseball. Cal continued until 1957 before retiring. Ted played two years in the minors and then assigned for several more years, advancing to the Triple-A Pacific Coast League, before he also retired. Bob continued in baseball for several years after the war before settling on a farm in South Carolina.

Slim remained active in baseball until a freak farm accident claimed his life on September 13, 1955. A storm had blown a tree down on a 4300 volt service line on the farm and he and his sons, Tom and Ted, were trying to control the ensuing fire, when the family dog ran past them and into the high voltage wires. Helpful till the end, Roy in attempting to save the dog's life, accidentally touched the downed wires, costing him his own life.

Hinder's Memorial Field

In the fall of 1963, Hinder's Memorial Field was named after Lloyd A. Hinders. What sort of a person must an individual be to be deserving of such an honor? Most of us remember him as a fine teacher, a great coach and, at the time of his death, the Athletic Director of Rock Falls High School. In these capacities, he always displayed a keen sense of loyalty, competition, perseverance, pride and citizenship.

Perhaps a few lines from a speech Lloyd was preparing, just before his untimely decease, for delivery at the Montmorency Grade School Sports Banquet, may lend an insight into just what kind of a fellow he really was. We quote from these notes, found in his picket by his wife Dorothy:

"As an athlete, you represent your home, your school and your community. Play with a 'never say die' spirit, do your best and this is all that can be asked of you. Above all, play fair, for if the world needs anything in sports, fair players are needed the most."

One of Lloyd's favorite statements when asked how things were going, was: "We're doing good - but let's do better!"

Lloyd A. Hinders was born May 12, 1910 in Forreston Township, Ogle County, the son of Allen and Elizabeth Moring Hinders. He attended the Shannon grade and high schools. He received his bachelor of Arts and Science degree in North Central College, Naperville, Illinois in 1932, and was awarded his Master's degree from the University of Iowa on February 1, 1947.

From 1932 to 1934, he was an assistant instructor in hygiene and track coach at North Central College. During those three years, his teams won the IAC track and field championships. The next two years were spent in St. Luke's private school for boys at Canaan, Connecticut.

On November 26, 1936, he was united in marriage with Miss Dorothy Nesemeyer, at which time the young couple moved to Rock Falls where he taught and coached at Merrill School.

During his seven years at Merrill Grade School, his teams entered the state basketball tournaments numerous times, finishing in second place on two occasions. For years, he supervised play in the parks during the summer months.

In the fall of 1943, he became head of Social Studies at Rock Falls High School, as well as head basketball coach and assistant football coach. During this time, he helped produce many outstanding athletes and Rock Falls always had powerful teams on both the basketball court and the gridiron. In 1951, he dropped coaching to become athletic director of Rock Falls High School.

Mr. Hinders was instigator of baseball in Rock Falls High School, and under his supervision in athletics, he saw many excellent teams developed, including the 1957-58 basketball team that finished runner-up to Marshall of Chicago in the Illinois State Tournament.

Hinders was quite an outstanding sports figure in his own right, as witnessed by the following exploits: In 1928, while a junior in the Shannon High School, he and Lamoine Boyle formed a two-man track team, representing that school and won the Sterling Township High School Invitational Track and Field championships. He was captain of the track team in his senior year at North Central College and starred in track, plus participating in intermural basketball and football. He is still believed to hold the college discus record for North Central at 141 feet, 5 inches. In 1931, he placed sixth in the national septathlon at the Illinois Relay Carnival.

It was through his untiring efforts that Little League was instituted in Rock Falls. In addition to being a charter member of the Rock Falls Optimist Club, Lloyd also served in the capacity of past president of the local chapter, as well as Lt. Governor of the State and National organization.

Mr. Hinders passed away April 1, 1963, leaving behind, his wife Dorothy and one son, Mark, who reside at 1005 LeRoy Avenue, Rock Falls.

Kenneth F. Siebel

Kenneth F. Siebel, Jr., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Siebel, formerly of 813 LeRoy Avenue, Rock Falls, now residing on Mineral Springs Road, Sterling, was born on February 19, 1941 in Savanna, Illinois.

Ken attended both Merrill Grade and Junior High Schools. He was a member of the eighth grade basketball team that placed third in the grade school state tournament. Upon graduation, Ken was awarded the American Legion Award by Rock Falls Legion Post 902.

He attended Rock Falls High School 1955 through 1959, where he participated in football, basketball and track for four years - inclusive of three years of varsity competition.

The highlight of his high school athletic days was during his junior year when the basketball team, coached by Dick Haselton, placed second to Marshall High School of Chicago in the State Basketball Tournament at Champaign.

The versatile young man established a number of records at R.F.H.S. and a new Sterling Field House record of 50 points in a single game. He was chosen on the first team in the North Central Conference, the Associated Press All-Tournament team and the All-State team.

In his senior year, Ken was valedictorian of his graduating class, in addition to receiving the best all-round student award and the sportsmanship award.

Ken decided to attend the University of Wisconsin on a combination academic-athletic scholarship where he received his B.B.A. and Masters of Business Administration Degrees.

He played three years of varsity basketball, as guard and forward while attending the University of Wisconsin.

Numerous honors were accorded Ken while at the University. He was co-captain his senior year, played in the East-West game, was chosen for the Pan American trials and set a new scoring record for three years of competition.

The highest honor accorded Ken, was being chosen the Most Valuable Basketball Player at Wisconsin for three years in succession, an honor which no other cager in the history of Wisconsin has ever achieved.

The greatest thrill of his college sport's career was the upset win over Ohio State, 86 to 67, at the time the Buckeyes were named on all press polls as the nation's top-ranked team.

May 1, 1963, the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce sponsored a banquet at R.F.H.S. honoring Ken, at which time, they presented him with a citation for his outstanding marks as both an athlete and a scholar.

Ken has continued his basketball career to some extent, playing for several different amateur teams and has made trips to Madrid, Spain and Buenos Aires, Argentina to participate in various tournaments.

Ken is presently living in San Francisco and is associated as a registered representative, with Smith, Barney and Company, a leading investment banking and brokerage firm, where he covers Hawaii periodically for the company.

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Gary Kolb

Gary Kolb, the son of Josephine and the late Ernest Kolb, was born in Rock Falls on March 13, 1940 and was a permanent resident here until 1960, when he signed a professional baseball contract with the St. Louis Cardinals.

Gary took part in both basketball and track during his years in Rock Falls Junior High School. The Lightweight Basketball Team, on which he played, finished 4th in the state tournament.

Gary earned 11 varsity letters while attending Rock Falls High School; four in baseball, three in basketball and two each in track and football. He gained All-Conference and All-State teams in both football and basketball.

Rock Falls residents will forever remember the 1958 Rocket Basketball team that finished second to Marshall High School of Chicago in the final game of the State Basketball Tournament at Champaign, and brought our fair city state-wide recognition. Gary was a regular starting guard on that memorable team.

As a track performer, Gary still holds the Rock Falls High School 100-yard dash record, which he set in 1957. As a pitcher for the high school baseball team during the summer months, he recorded two no-hitters.

The young athlete is always quick to point out that he learned a great amount about sports and sportsmanship while attending Rock Falls High School from such fine instructors and coaches as the late Lloyd Hinders, Bruce McDonald, Richard Haselton and Walter Hardy, all who have contributed so much to his athletic success.

After considering countless offers from numerous colleges, Gary decided to attend the University of Illinois. He was strongly influenced in his decision by Mr. and Mrs. C. Deane Frary of Prophets-town, who have helped in guiding him throughout his college days.

At Illinois, he lettered in both football and baseball and it was here that he was scouted by professional baseball clubs and was later signed to a bonus contract with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1960.

Gary spent most of the 1960, 1961 and 1962 baseball seasons in the Minor Leagues. He moved up to the Cardinals in 1963 and played on the Cardinal team that gave the Dodgers a battle for the pennant, before losing out in the last few games. He was traded to the Milwaukee Braves at the start of the 1964 season and spent two months at Denver, Colorado of the Pacific Coast League, before joining the Braves in June. He remained with the Milwaukee Braves before being sold to the New York Mets in July of 1965.

In 1966, he spent the season at Jacksonville, Florida as a Player-Coach. In December of 1966, he was traded to the Pittsburgh Pirates. Gary has spent over three years in the Major Leagues since signing in May of 1960.

While playing for Lancaster, Pennsylvania, of the Eastern League during the 1961 season, he met Georgia Fritsch whom he married later that year. They have two children, Lisa Rene, age 4 and Marc Todd, 2.

Young Kolb's biggest thrill was replacing Stan Musial in Musial's last game of that gentleman's illustrious career on the final day of the 1963 season. Other major thrills, Gary recalls readily, was playing in the Illinois State High School Basketball Tournament in 1958 and hitting his first home run in the Major Leagues in 1963.

Gary feels he has indeed been very fortunate in having the opportunity of playing with two of the all-time greats in modern day baseball ... namely, Stan Musial and Warren Spahn.

The talented Rock Falls athlete plans to continue as an active player in baseball as long as he is physically able. He plans to continue in baseball as either a coach or manager when his active playing days are ended.

However, at 26 years of age, he now is set on getting back to the majors and to play in a World Series ... he hopes with the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1967.

Jeff Kolb

In order to bring our sports history up-to-date - and especially the baseball story, we cannot forget to mention Jeffrey Kolb (known to most everyone as Jeff). Jeff, who was born on September 16, 1946, is the younger brother of Gary.

Jeff was graduated from Rock Falls High School in 1964. While attending school there, he participated in all sports. He was basketball captain 2 years. An injury sidelined him from football during his freshman year, but he participated again in his senior year.

Jeff has attended Illinois State U at Normal for 2 years where he earned his basketball letter his sophomore year.

On July 17, 1966, he was signed by the Chicago White Sox and sent to the rookie league in Sarasota, Florida. This year, he is with the Sox Farm Club from Appleton, Wisconsin and plays third base with them in the Mid-West League. He can be seen in action at Clinton and Davenport, Iowa when the team is playing in this area.

1957-58 "Rollicking" Rockets

Down through the years, Rock Falls has taken a backseat to no one in its athletic pride. Probably one of the most exciting examples of this pride was the basketball season of 1957 and 1958. The Rock Falls Rockets, better known as the "Rollicking" Rockets, under the leadership of coach Richard "Dick" Haselton, assistant Walt Hardy and athletic director Lloyd Hinders, compiled an outstanding 33 wins and 2 loss record.

During the regular season, the Rockets compiled a 25 win and 1 loss record, winning the NCIC Conference, the DeKalb Holiday Tournament and the New-Mor-Rock-Ster Tournament. The only regular season loss came at the hands of the Kewanee Boilermakers, a 63 to 60 setback that came while the Rockets Senior Captain Gary Kolb was attending an All-State football banquet in Champaign-Urbana.

Throughout the season, the Rockets displayed courage and finesse rarely found in high school basketball. One of the major factors of the Rockets' success was Coach Haselton's emphasis on teamwork, and his strong bench. One situation comes to mind during the East Rockford game of the Sectional Tournament. Hampered by foul trouble, the Rockets had to rely on their bench. Coming off the bench, sixth man Frank Simister scored 17 points in the closing minutes to help send Rock Falls on to the Super-Sectional at Whar-ton Field House, Moline.

To cite only one man of the Rocket bench would be an injustice to the entire team, for it was men like Simister, Thome, Johnson, Ramirez, Anderson, Gall and Wescott, who contributed so much to the fine first team of Kolb, Cain, Gallentine, Martin and Siebel.

It goes without saying that throughout the season, the powerful Rockets picked up fans from here, there and everywhere as they worked their way, game by game, toward the state finals, until finally ... The State Tournament!!

Playing before capacity crowds, as members of the Elite-Eight, the Rockets proceeded to dump rival Schlarman of Danville in a game that saw two state records fall. The score: Rock Falls - 101, Danville - 76. This performance set the record for the highest two team total, and also the highest one team total. These records still stand. The following day, the Rockets beat a good Peoria Spaulding team, placing them in the State Tournament's final contest.

Rock Falls vs Marshall

The final game of the Illinois State Tournament started with a fury. Rock Falls quickly grabbed the lead, but just as quickly found themselves in serious foul trouble. Jim Cain, star center of the Rockets was tabbed with four fouls in the first quarter, and others had three fouls before the first half had ended. Not only did this hamper Coach Haselton's scoring threat, but prohibited the Rockets from using their rather famous full-court press.

Foul trouble and the speed of the fine Marshall High School team was a bit more than the Rockets could cope with. The game ended with Marshall on top by a score of 70 to 64.

According to fans - and not only those from Rock Falls either - the Rockets were Champions! Did the Rockets perform well? Well, they only set four state records, placed Siebel and Kolb on the All-Tournament First Team, Cain on the All-Tournament Second Team and Gallentine and Martin received honorable mention. Quite an accomplishment in two days.

Quotes, such as: "The best coached team I've seen all year," "They're beautiful to watch," and "One of the finest teams to ever play in Huff Gymnasium," came from the press box.

Any article about this excellent basketball team of 1957-58 would hardly be complete without mentioning Managers Eldon Williams and Steve Nicols, whose efficient duties helped immensely in making such a smooth running organization possible.

Rock Falls trip to the State Tournament was well represented in other ways also. Cheerleaders Sally Harper, Nancy Akerburg, Sue Gallentine and Sally Henderson, who was named to the All-Tournament Cheerleaders, among others, and Miss Pat Burgess who represented Rock Falls in the Queens' Court.

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1960 Undefeated Football Team

During the fall of 1960, the city of Rock Falls and Rock Falls High School wrote another page in their history of sports. That year, under the leadership of Coach Bruce "Mac" MacDonald and his capable staff, a Cinderella football team became a giant. This team, playing under handicap of lack of weight piled up victories over impressive foes.

Known primarily as a defensive ball team, the Rockets stopped opponents of much greater size through clever maneuvering and ninety per cent desire, instilled in them by Coach MacDonald. Such defensive standouts as Ed Rein, Bill Connell, L'Dean Gunderson, John Bonnell, Terry Whitmer and Kenny Russell provided a containing power no opponent could match.

Providing the offensive punch for the Rockets were quarterback Ron Davis, center Mike Wesner, tackles Stan Wenger and Ron Smeltzer, guard Bob Masini and backs Jim Law, Bill Connell, Jerry Grabeklis and Bill Stanley.

This is the Rock Falls team that played the famous "David and Goliath" game. Paired against the powerful Mendota Trojans - a team of monstrous size and scoring potential - the Rockets were not only playing to win the NCIC Conference, but to also remain undefeated and untied. In a game that saw most of its action between the 40 yard lines, the game ended victoriously for the Rockets, 7 to 6.

The Rockets went on to capture their two remaining games for an undefeated and untied season.



Track Team

1924-25 Rock Falls High School Basketball Team



The 1924-25 Rock Falls High School basketball team, coached by Hugh Harrison and captained by Carlo Pignatelli, won the Rock River Conference, were runners-up in the Moline Tournament and finished fourth in the Illinois Wesleyan Tournament that year.

In photo above, front row, left to right, are: Johnson, Captain Pignatelli and Huntsberger. Second row, left to right, are: Wright, Schutt and McFalls. Back row, left to right, are: Weber, E. Wheelock, Coach Harrison, Willett and L. Wheelock.

High School Track Team

One of the finest and first Rock Falls High School track team to ever bring statewide recognition to the local school is the 1925 team in photo above. This team won the mile relay at the Bloomington Wesleyan Meet and won three relay races at the Sterling High School track meet that year.

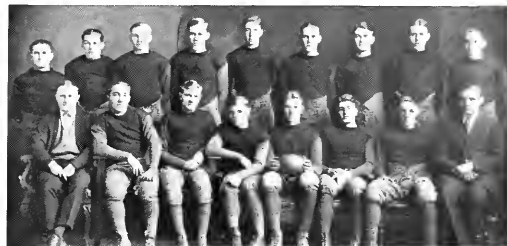
In photo, seated left to right, are: McFalls and Huntsberger. Second row, left to right, are: Luesby, Logan, Darnell and Gaulrapp. Back row, left to right, are: Weber, Johnson, Captain Schutt, Wheelock and Coach Hugh Harrison.

High School Football Team of 1924

The Rock Falls High School football team of 1924, with Hugh Harrison as coach and Loomis Wheelock as captain, compiled one of the finest records ever attained by any football team before or since at the local school. The season record was a clean-sweep of nine consecutive victories without defeat and by a whopping 234 points for Rock Falls and only 12 points for their opponents. The only team to cross the Rock Falls goal line that year was Rochelle, who accounted for the 12 points.

In photo, left to right, front row, are: Coach Harrison, Tompkins, Shoemaker, Logan, Captain L. Wheelock, Pignatelli, McFalls and Cameron, the team's business manager.

Back row, left to right, are: Hoover, Little, Schutt, Johnson, Willett, E. Wheelock, Wright, Weber and Darnell.



1924-25 Football Team

Little League

The sports story in our community would not be complete without mentioning the Rock Falls Little League and the Rock Falls Babe Ruth League baseball teams.

The Little League was organized in 1954 as an activity for boys 8 to 12 years in age. Lloyd Hinders did much of the work in organizing this activity and was its first president. The Little League has expanded from its original eight teams and now has eight minor league teams as well. In the summer of 1966, there were 280 boys who were participating.

Uniforms were purchased in 1964, at which time costs of supporting the Little League amounted to \$2,900.00. Since then expenses have dropped to about \$1900.00 annually.

The sponsors of teams have been Optimist Club, Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, Disco Foods, Eagles Club, Local 63, The American Legion and also an anonymous giver.

The coaches and other helpers are parents or individuals who realize the need for this activity for the boys.

Dale Henderson is the president for 1967.

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Babe Ruth League Baseball

The Rock Falls Babe Ruth League for 13 to 15 year olds, was organized in 1955 with the following officers: John Stanley, president; Alonzo Anderson, vice president; Roy Dickinson, treasurer and Harry Viren, secretary. Four teams were formed and games were played at Wallingford Park. In 1956, through the help of the Rock Falls Optimist Club, Dillon Park was dedicated, lights were installed, back stops were erected and bleachers were built. That same year the Babe Ruth Auxiliary was organized and took charge of the concession stand. In 1958, funds were raised with a successful Pancake Supper. In 1960, two new teams were added and the players of all six teams were provided with uniforms. The sponsors were Parrish-Alford, Rock Falls Merchants, Wood Shovel and Tool, Service Stations, Rock Falls Optimist Club and Disco Foods. New dugouts were also installed during the year. In 1961, a new concession stand was installed for the Babe Ruth Auxiliary. The All-Stars enjoyed a successful season by winning their own District Tournament, the Regional Tournament and then went on to place third in the state. Through the help of the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce, an overhauling job was done at Dillon Park. Lights were sent to the factory for refinishing, a permanent fence was erected around the park, a new electric score board was placed in center field, and a booth was built above the concession stand for the announcer. During the years, the following men, in addition to the original officers, served: J. Meyers, Elmer McNinch, Orville Bronson, Glen Whitmer, Wells Shearer, Victor Alexander, Dale Payne, Clark Wasson, Silvio Tintori, Lowell Spencer, Avie Masini, Dale Henderson, Clarence Schuler, Wayne Hendrix and Bernard Warkins. The 1967 officers are Wayne Hendrix, president, Jerry Yeard, vice president, Ross Harrison, secretary-treasurer and Ray Mills, player agent and equipment manager.

The Rock Falls Babe Ruth League will be starting its twelfth year and much of the success during these years is due to the Babe Ruth Auxiliary, Civic Youth Council, the sponsors, officers, managers, coaches and the many others who have helped in this worthy cause.



Lori Schutt

One look at the hundreds of ribbons, medals, trophies and other miscellaneous awards acquired by one young Rock Falls girl soon has one realizing that the sport's world is not strictly dominated by male athletes.

Lori Schutt, the daughter of Paul and the late Evelyn Schutt of 205 14th Avenue, Rock Falls, has been making her presence felt on the national sports level for the past three years. Lori is a runner ... and a remarkably good one!

Lori has been running since she was a junior at Illinois State University at Normal. Now in her third year of competition, she is running toward the 1967 Pan-American games and the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City.

Miss Schutt has done well in national championship meets. Her latest accomplishment was a fifth place finish in a field of over 100 women at the Women's National AAU Cross Country Championships in St. Louis. Sports Illustrated carried a story of this meet in the December 5, 1966 issue.

The following is a list of the Rock Falls' runners best competitive times to date: 220 yard dash - 26.5; 440 yard dash - 58.9; 880 yard run - 2.12.7; 1500 meters - 4:39.6; mile - 5:14 and one and one-half mile - 8:32.

At present, Lori is a graduate student at the University of Illinois and is a member of the Central Illinois Track Club in Champaign. Her coach is Dr. Nell C. Jackson, former Olympic competitor.

The answer to why Lori runs can best be gained from the following article she wrote while at Illinois State:

"Travel, people, situations - all these are interesting. If there needs be justification for running other than running itself, these are certainly eligible for consideration, but the values inherent in running itself have considerable merit.

"I consider running to be an art form. Like all art forms, it provides opportunities for self-realization. It can bring one closer to realizing his fullest potential as a human being. There is a certain beauty in any well executed human movement. Add to this the feeling of freedom when extraneous factors are minimized and one is running well, and the result is a feeling that is difficult to surpass or explain.

"In a sense, the freedom of which I speak, is a freedom of uninhibited productiveness. The entire feeling, of which this is a component, can best be explained as poetry in motion with the runner or poet."

With such an outlook on running as observed by the young Schutt girl, one can expect just about anything from her on the track field in the next few years.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH AND SCHOOL

In the summer of 1950, His Excellency Bishop Boylan established the parish of St. Andrew The Apostle in Rock Falls. The very important "spade work" of organizing a new parish was very well carried out by the first pastor Father Joseph Tully. At that time, Mr. Leo Wahl of Sterling gave a piece of property on the corner of First Avenue and East Tenth Street to be used for the new parish. In order to get the parish going immediately, Father Tully persuaded Mr. Wahl to switch the gift of this lot to an already constructed building at 800 Fourth Avenue to be used as a temporary structure pending the completions of plans for a permanent building. This, Mr. Wahl very graciously consented to do.

In the meantime, Father Tully looked around the community and after studying the trends in city development, purchased the property on Eleventh Avenue and West Tenth Street. Meanwhile preliminary plans were drawn up for a school building.

On January 1, 1951, Father Burwell Beddoes succeeded Father Tully as pastor. Additional property on Eleventh Avenue was purchased and John J. Flad & Associates, Architects and Engineers of Madison, Wisconsin were called in. The problem of building economically, adequately and permanently was presented to them. Mr. Flad then presented the plans of the building which now stands on the corner of Eleventh Avenue and West Seventh Street.

Ground was broken on November 21, 1951 and with the steady progress characteristic of the T.S. Willis Company, the General Contractor, the work moved forward through the winter, spring and summer, until on September 3, 1952, St. Andrew's Grade School opened its doors for the first time to 202 pupils in the eight elementary grades.

Fortunately for the parish, Father Tully had made a contract with the Sisters of Loretto of the Foot of the Cross of Loretto, Kentucky, to staff the school. For this purpose, there came to Rock Falls in August of 1952, Sister Mary Eileen as the Superior, Sister Mary Bernard Therese, Sister Mary Rosamond, and Sister Mary Jean.

On the Feast of Christ the King, October 26, 1952, the auditorium wing of the building was the scene of great joy as the parishioners attended their First Mass in the new building and began their annual Forty Hours of Adoration in Thanksgiving for the many, many blessings given them by Our Blessed Lord.

On Sunday afternoon, May 18, 1952, in the presence of a goodly gathering of Clergy and the faithful, the pastor, Father Beddoes, laid the cornerstone of the new building.

Father Beddoes purchased a home at 505 Seventh Avenue in February 1952 to be used as a Rectory.

A home was also purchased at 901 West Tenth Street in December 1951 to be used as a Convent for the Sisters. This home was old and needed much remodeling so the parishioners all pitched in to help. The men built a new Chapel on the house and put in some new ceilings and floors. The women helped by painting the rooms and cleaning the house so it would be ready for the Sisters. This work was all donated by the parishioners who worked on this project.

Father Beddoes was transferred to another parish in 1957 and Father Boland came to St. Andrews. After being here a short time, he sold the Rectory on Seventh Avenue and bought the home at 701 Tenth Avenue, as he wanted to be closer to the Church.

Father Boland stayed here until 1960 and then Father Kriegsmann was pastor until June 1963. He was transferred in 1963 and Father Hetterman came and was pastor until July 1966. Then Father McNamee came and is now our pastor.

The assistants were: Father Lawrence London from 1954 to 1958, Father Wm. Meyers, 1958 to 1962, Father Richard Paddock, 1962 to 1965, Father Alfred Kruk from 1965 and still here.

The first baptisms took place October 15th, 1950 in the first church on Fourth Avenue. The following six were christened: Kevin P. Riley, Michael J. Hannon, Sharon A. Hannon, Janet M. Arduini, Sharon A. Appenzellar and Linda A. Foley. The first christening in the church on Eleventh Avenue was on November 9, 1952, and Wilma J. Johnson and John S. Lewandowski were made children of God by the sacrament of baptism.

The first wedding took place on November 1, 1950 in the temporary church building between Leo J. Foley and Victoria Felsleitner. The first wedding in the new church took place between Jane Scott and Joseph Bianchi.

The Altar and Rosary Society was formed in 1950 with Louise Hernes as president.

The Holy Name Society was organized in 1950 with Henry Kaput as president.

The first organist was Mrs. S.A. Murphy, who so faithfully has continued to play down through the years.

Mrs. Helen Conway directed the first choir.

We, the parishioners of Saint Andrews Catholic Church are proud and happy to participate in the Rock Falls Centennial.

St. Andrew's School for the year of 1966 - 1967 has an enrollment of 342 boys and girls, grades one through eight.

The faculty today: Sr. Marietta, principal, Sr. Gilmray, Sr. Regina Marie, Sr. Mary Edward and Sr. John Maura, all Sisters of Loretto. The Lay Teachers are: Miss Mary Kay Forehand, Mrs. Madeline Lutyens, Mrs. Harry Kobbeman and Mrs. Joanne Papoccia.

The faculty and children are also happy to be part of the Centennial.



St. Andrew's Parish

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

The year 1867 was a special year of beginnings for Rock Falls citizens. It was thirty-eight years later on March 18, 1905 that a little group of Christians met in the home of W.Y. Young in Rock Falls, to organize themselves into a company of believers, known as Seventh Day Adventists. At the conclusion of this meeting, 14 individuals became charter members.

The first contact of a Seventh Day Adventist minister made by this little group was Pastor Covert, who came to Rock Falls for one day, November 26, 1905. He called a business meeting and helped organize a young people's society (youth group). The first rally was held December 3, 1905 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Wright.

On January 15, 1908, the first "Liberty" magazines (a magazine dedicated to religious liberty through the separation of church and state) were received for circulation among the businessmen of Rock Falls and Sterling.

January 12, 1912, after two years of waiting, Pastor F.J. Harris came to conduct the first communion service, which was preceded by the New Testament ordinance of foot-washing. Among those carrying on church work at this time were: John H. Hicks, leader; Charles Puels, treasurer; Eva Hicks, clerk and missionary secretary.

On March 17, 1917, Pastor J.H. Schilling, president of the Illinois Conference of Seventh Day Adventists, held an all day meeting in a hall in downtown Rock Falls. This was the first time all offices of the church were filled.

On Wednesday, August 14, 1935, Pastors C. Ray Kinney and Wellman opened a series of meetings under a large screened tent. Meetings ended September 29, 1935 and on October 12, five new members were added to the church.

As the church grew, it occupied the Odd Fellows Hall in Sterling for seven years.

With the help of friends in the Sterling-Rock Falls community, as well as the liberality of the Illinois Conference, a church was built as the money was earned, so that construction could proceed without debt of any kind. First services in the new church were held March 20, 1943 with dedication made on the Sabbath, Saturday, September 15, 1951.

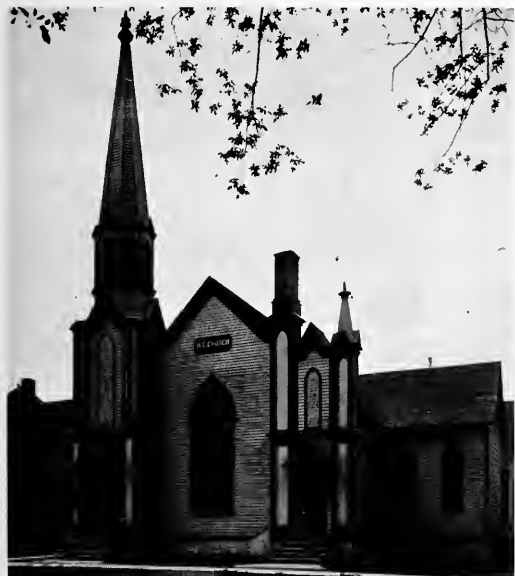
In the present year of 1967, plans are being made for a new full-time elementary school-church combination, so that future leaders might be fitted for Christian citizenship not only in Rock Falls, but in the earth made new.

METHODIST CHURCH OF ROCK FALLS

The Sunday School, conducted by Richard Arey, Sr., in the old brick schoolhouse east of Rock Falls, on the Dixon Road, was one of the earliest religious institutions in the community. It changed its location to the new school building on the corner opposite the Rock Falls Bank, where it continued as a Union Sabbath school from 1868 to 1871 with James A. Patterson as superintendent. At this time, it was merged into the Methodist Episcopal Sabbath school. Lawrence Woodford was elected the first superintendent of the re-organized school.

During the winter of 1868-1869, a revival service was conducted by Rev. Alling and Denning, of the Fourth St. and Broadway churches of Sterling, Illinois, assisted by Dr. J.H. Moore, Presiding Elder. Such an interest was awakened that a class was at once formed and the little society began its independent existence.

The need of a church building was very urgent and during the Spring of 1869, a petition was circulated to raise money for the erection of a modest edifice. In a short time, \$1,825 was subscribed for a building. On July 10, 1869, the first money was paid to the treasurer, J.A. Bickford. Ground was broken on a lot purchased from A.L. Merrill for \$300. Before the fall of 1869, the building was enclosed, building papers put on rafters above, and stoves were put in, so that it was used during the spring of 1870 with only temporary inconveniences. Rev. W.H. Smith, the new pastor of Fourth St. M.E. Church, greatly enthused the congregation and the church increased in interest and numbers. Labor resumed on the building.



Methodist Church

On the eve of December 14, 1869, the society held an oyster supper and festival and with the funds thus raised, purchased of C.S. Mills, music dealer in Sterling, on Christmas Day, 1869, a \$140 no. 7 Burdette organ. At the conference of 1870, held in Elgin, Illinois, the sum of \$100 was appropriated by the committee on missions for the support of the work in Rock Falls. October 11, 1870, John A. Stayt was appointed as the first pastor. With a settled pastor to guide the society in its efforts, the church was finished. Brother Stayt worked with the carpenters and expended much hard labor in bringing the plans to completion. The dedication of the church, costing \$4,189.07, took place in April, 1871, under the charge of Dr. J.H. Moore, Presiding Elder, who retired April 18, 1871 to live in Polo, Illinois.

The first bell was hung in the tower but was found to be cracked and was taken down and returned to the foundry. The present bell was hung in place on March 22, 1872.

In the early part of the pastorate of Rev. John A. Stayt, preaching points were established at Hume Center and Bayne's Corners, each contributing liberally to the support of the work on the charge.

At a meeting of the church held October 11, 1871, plans were discussed and formulated for the procuring of a lot, and building a parsonage. A committee, consisting of Rev. J.A. Stayt, J.A. Bickford and A.F.R. Emmons were appointed for that purpose and on November 1, 1871, a lot was purchased for \$300 and work begun on a home for the pastor. The work of building the house was under the direction of W.H. Swingley. It was completed at a cost of \$1,104.77 and turned over to the committee October 15, 1872.

Those appearing on the subscription list as giving \$100 or more towards the building were: M.L. Cow, J.A. Patterson, J.L. Morrill, C.K. Brown, A.W. Wheeler, C.H. Payson, Andrews, Bickford and Co., R.H. Jenkins, J.P. Russell, L.K. Jenkins, T. Yoeward and J. Smith. Among other subscriptions was a \$100 buggy given to the church by C.K. Brown.

The first trustees of the organization approved at the first quarterly conference of the denomination, held November 18, 1870 were R.H. Jenkins, J.A. Bickford, C.K. Brown, J.L. Morrill and Marcus L. Company.

An interesting relic among the data was of the Chicago fire. A note amounting to \$288 was given to George A. Misch and Bro. Mfg., Chicago, for the purchase of stained glass windows for the church. During the term of its possession by Misch and Bro., the great Chicago fire occurred, October 9, 1871. The entire plant worth \$40,000 (including plans, accounts, etc.,) were lost. Upon opening their safe, which was so damaged that it could hardly be wedged apart, the notes, accounts, etc. were found to be so charred and blackened that they were hardly recognizable. Among them was the note given by the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Rock Falls. The firm informed the church treasurer of their loss and begged the trustees to advance payment of the note, not due until March 1872, and upon its payment was returned to the treasurer. It was so charred and blackened that it hardly held together. However, the glistening printers ink still shows on the charred sheet and makes the figures plainly discernable.

During the two year pastorate of John A. Stayt, the charge received \$100 each year from the missionary committee toward the support of a pastor. At the close of 1872, the charge had grown from an almost chaotic nothingness to a membership of 87, having three Sunday Schools; one at Rock Falls, one at Baner Corners and one at Hume with a total attendance of 388.

At the conference, the pastor reported a church building worth \$5,000, a parsonage worth \$1,100 and as having received \$700 salary and \$160 in donations for the first year and \$900 and the use of the parsonage for the second year.

By 1873 the church became self-supporting. The membership grew to 158, with a Sabbath School having an attendance of 214 scholars.

There have gone out from this charge into the ministry or other religious labors Rev. W.H. Tuttle; Rev. W.O. Sheppard; Rev. Fred D. Stone; Rev. George A. Wells; Rev. Albert E. Coe; Prof. Oscar Triggs of Chicago University and O.A. Oliver, ex-treasurer of the Western Methodist Book Concern.

Among the early members prior to 1875, Mrs. Mary A. Payson, Mrs. Isabell Stone, Martin Detrick, Mr. and Mrs. N.G. Van Sant, R.L. Leitch, Mrs. Rachael Coe, Cora B. Coe, Elizabeth N. Coe, Mrs. Mary E. Davison, Mrs. Mary A. Morrison, Mrs. Nancy Emmons and Mr. and Mrs. W.B. Emmons.

The first communion set, which was made of solid silver, was presented by A.W. Wheeler and wife. It's still being preserved, after being used regularly up to December 10, 1905.

The first organist was Clara Hapgood (Mrs. C. Glassburn). Alpheus Fox was the first chorister. The first superintendent of the Methodist Sabbath School was Lawrence Woodford.

Extensive improvements were made on the parsonage in September 1881, when an addition was built; the house thoroughly renovated and repaired. An addition (12 x 18) to the church was accomplished during the winter of 1882, providing a place for social and week day service of the church.

Between 1870-1888, ten pastors served the church. During the pastorate of M.M. Bales (1888-1891), the church was completely remodeled, extensive additions were made and the interior rearranged. More renovating and repair work was done in the summer

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of 1904. On September 18, 1904, the church was reopened and the parsonage dedicated. Subscriptions taken reduced the indebtedness to \$1,600.

Between 1891 to 1916, nine pastors served the parish. During the pastorate of Alfred Simister (1916-1922) the church burned to the ground; in January 1921. The passing of this old landmark and spiritual home was a great loss. The pastor and officials planned a new church very shortly. A subscription list was started and enough subscribed to justify the building committee to begin operation. The corner stone was laid in October 1922 and in September 1923, the present Methodist Church was dedicated.

Pastors serving the church up to the present time have been J. J. Hitchens, 1922-1926; S.H. Wirsching, 1926-1928; J.O. Crawford, 1929-1933; R.W. Furrish, 1934-1937; James R. Uhlinger, 1938-1942; Wayne Leighty, 1943-1947; A.E. Blomberg, 1948-1949; F.E. Frankson, 1949-1950; Paul Gilbert, 1950-1952; Norman C. Miller, 1953-1956; and Ivan J. Obenshain, 1956--.

During the pastorate of Norman C. Miller, the chancel of the sanctuary was completely remodeled and the pipe organ, which was a memorial gift, was installed. The church kitchen was also remodeled.

During the pastorate of the present pastor, Rev. Ivan J. Obenshain, a new educational wing has been added on the south side. A memorial chapel on the second floor of the church has been furnished by families in memory of loved ones.

Rev. Obenshain will have completed, in this centennial year, his tenth year in this pastorate and is retiring from the ministry this year.

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 501 8th Avenue was organized June 17, 1877. Its first building was built on land donated to the congregation by Abner Merrill on what was then Payson Street. It was a small 54 x 32 foot frame structure, but it served the congregation for many years. The building was dedicated in the fall of 1877, and cost \$1935.

The congregation ordinarily had its own pastor, but from 1882 to 1886, it was served by the pastor from the Lutheran Church in Ashton.

The church was renovated in 1891 and two lots adjoining the church were purchased. In 1892, the church was raised and a basement was put under it for school purposes.

The first parsonage was built in 1894 by Dr. J.M. Reu, the pastor at that time. Additional church improvements were made in 1898. In 1900, a second story was added to the parsonage and it was purchased from Dr. Reu.

From the beginning of Pastor Reu's service in 1890 until the late 1930's, the Rock Falls pastors also served the Yorktown congregation.

In 1907, a number of members of the Rock Falls congregation living in Sterling desired to organize a congregation of their own in Sterling. St. Paul's church was then organized and although the church was weakened by this division, the remaining members rallied and soon the numbers began to be replenished.

German was the language of the church until after Rev. Wm. Krebs was called in 1913. Then English was introduced in the Sunday School and one church service was held in English and one in German. German was dropped entirely during the pastorate of Wm. Streng.



Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church - About 1895

Additional improvements were made in the church in 1914, and it was rebuilt extensively in 1926. Electricity and other improvements were made on the parsonage in 1916.

In 1952, a portion of the parish hall was built and an additional part was built in 1955. Additional land has been purchased through the years, including two lots south of the parsonage. Lots west and north of the church have been purchased for parking in more recent years.

The longest pastorate through the years was that of Rev. Wm. Krebs. He passed away in 1933 while still pastor of the congregation. One son, Walter became a lay missionary to New Guinea. He was interned by the Japanese in the early years of the second World War. He lost his life when the ship he was on while being moved to another prison camp, was bombed.

At the congregations first meeting in 1877, there were 18 voting members. Now, in 1967, 90 years later, there are 1399 baptized and 1208 confirmed members in Immanuel Lutheran Congregation.

Pastors having served Immanuel Lutheran in its 90 year history are: Rev. Stoll, 1877-1879; Rev. G. Beltz, 1879-1882; Rev. Staufenberg, 1882-1890; Rev. J.M. Reu, 1890-1899; Rev. J. Weyrauch, 1899-1903; Rev. E. Hafermann, 1903-1913; Rev. Wm. Krebs, 1913-1933; Rev. Wm. Streng, 1933-1957; Rev. D. Comnick, 1947-1961; Rev. E.A. Heinrichs, 1961-.



Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ROCK FALLS

The First Congregational Church of Rock Falls, Illinois was formed from a nucleus from the First Congregational Church of Sterling, Illinois. The people of Rock Falls, who had been attending the Sterling church, felt that the time had come to organize a Congregational Church on the south side of Rock River.

A meeting was called at the Rock Falls Methodist Church on December 26, 1875. Rev. S.D. Belt, who had been the minister in the Sterling church from January 20, 1874 to October 1, 1875, along with Rev. J.E. Roy, D.D., Rev. Rufus Apthorp and Rev. McConnel helped organize the new group.

The charter members were as follows: Richard Arey, Mrs. Mary A. Arey, Mrs. Sarah E. Phelps, Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Rice, Mrs. Sophia E. Wright, Miss Fannie Wright, James C. Arey, Mrs. Mary E. Arey, Miss Hattie Arey, Mr. and Mrs. James Alpress, Augustus Edgerton, Mrs. Della S. Edgerton and Mrs. Emiline H. Dyer.

The first deacons elected were Richard Arey, Charles Saxton and J.B. Hand.

The upper room of the schoolhouse built in 1868 and located on the corner of Elm and Bridge streets (First Avenue and Third

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Street) was made suitable as a place of worship and was used regularly until a church could be built.

A Sabbath School was organized January 2, 1876, with about fifty members and Rev. Belt as superintendent and L. Tuttle secretary; and met after the morning worship service.

On March 12, 1876, the church held its first communion service in the schoolhouse. Rev. S.D. Belt and Rev. Rufus Athorp officiated. Forty-two members received the right hand of fellowship.

On August 9, 1876, the lots on which the church was later built were received from Augustus P. Smith, who donated the lots to the church.

On September 4, 1876, the cornerstone of the church was laid. Soon after, the lumber and materials were ready. With members of the church helping with the work, and Philo Meacham serving as superintendent of the project, the first story and basement (40 x 75) was completed at a cost of \$3,627.73.

One of the outstanding windows was a small one set high in the wall, at the back of the sanctuary, that was referred to by the congregation, as the "Eye of God." No one seems to know what became of it when the church was demolished in 1959.

The church membership was eighty and the Sunday School reached one hundred fifty by 1877.

The next undertaking, about 1883, was to add twelve feet to the front of the building. The contract was let to E.C. Palmer and M.C. Dearman and finished at the cost of \$2,254.33. There was a belfry built on the northeast corner of the building and a bell hung, but it did not weather well and was later removed.

In the spring of 1885, preparations were made to plaster and finish off the audience room on the second floor of the church. In June of 1886, Keeney and Harrison of Sterling were awarded the contract. Carpenter work, furnishing, finishing and seating cost \$2,508.81. The dedication of the new sanctuary was held in November 1886. The members then had a large room for worship and had all of the church debt paid.

In the spring of 1894, extensive repairs, redecorating, etc., were done. Members of the church did most of the work themselves. Janitor service was often taken over by the church members.

In October 1895, Davis and Thomas contracted to wire the church for electric lights. About fifty lamps were used. The old oil lamps were saved for awhile as they occasionally had to be dug out of the closets when the electricity failed. Earl Lutyens has one of these old lamps which he found in the church attic.



First Congregational Church

In the fall of 1896, a new coal house was added to the northwest corner of the church and a door cut through into the basement near the furnace. Members of the church donated their time and skill for this project.

In July of 1888, the church members discussed ways and means for the erection or purchase of a parsonage. It wasn't until a meeting on March 23, 1901, that by a unanimous vote, authority and instruction was given to the trustees to purchase the house nearest the church. The minister was required to pay rent for its use.

In the spring of 1897, the space in the north end of the entrance hall of the church was converted into a pastor's study. Mr. E.R. Nims did the carpenter work.

In 1923, a pipe organ was installed, a gift to the church from the family of Mrs. Susan M. Brown, who had been a faithful member and worker in the church for many years.

New pulpit fittings were purchased to replace the old ones in 1924.

On January 29, 1956, the church's 80th anniversary was celebrated, with the Rev. John F. Corpe, of the Mont Clara Congregational Church of Chicago, a former minister here, as guest speaker.

It was about this time that it became evident that the sanctuary and church, as a whole, were in bad repair. With the parking situation as it was and the trend of the times (to move out of town) plans should be made to sell, and buy with an eye to the future.

On Sunday, May 27, 1956, the moderator, Donald McNinch, appointed a planning committee and an architect was contacted for sketches for a complete new structure.

On October 12, 1957, the property on First Avenue was sold to the Rock Falls National Bank and on the same day, plans were made to purchase the property on Dixon Road, known as the Hospital Association property. A building chairman was approved and the necessary plans completed for a new church.

On July 20, 1958, ground breaking services were held at the new church site with Rev. C. McCall of the State Conference assisting Rev. R. Fate. Work on the church started August 4, 1958. Doors to the old church closed on Sunday, June 14, 1959, with a special service and the twelve oldest members recognized. Services were held in Thome School from June 21, 1959, to July 1959 and on July 26, 1959, the first worship service was held in the new sanctuary.

Dedication service was held Sunday afternoon, September 27, 1959. The total cost of the new building and property, including the rebuilding and installation of the organ was \$173,119.96.

Present trustees are: W.R. Bose, Milton F. Ward, Elwyn R. Stevens, Harold D. Wolber, A.E. Corzett, W.R. McCoy, Earl George and W.J. Sowles.

In the spring of 1963, the members agreed to build a new parsonage, so a committee was appointed and the work proceeded. The pastor and his family moved into the new parsonage on January 29, 1964. Elwyn Stevens and William Tewell, Jr. gave many hours to the erection of this new house.

A growing Sunday School has contributed much to form a sound foundation for a Christian life.

D.C. Cow was the first Sunday School superintendent and served 20 years. Others included J.H. Mechling, Harold Downey, Fred Howe, Miss Alice Swanson and Frank Swanson. The late Mrs. J.F. Sensenbaugh will long be remembered for her dedicated teaching in the junior department. Thelma McNinch has served nearly 40 years in the beginners department. The present superintendent is Mrs. Ruth Carter.

In early years, young people were organized into a Christian Endeavor. Under the pastorate of Rev. J.F. Corpe, the Lamba Tau Pi young people's society was formed. The Pilgrim Fellowship now serves the young people of the church.

On May 15, 1878, the Ladies Mite Society was formed. This was a very active organization. Church suppers, ice cream "sociables", with musical entertainment provided fun for all and neat sums to add to the treasury. The J.W. Nims family orchestra and sometimes the well-known Keystone Band furnished music.

About 1927, the Social Circle eventually replaced the Mite Society and it in turn was replaced by the Women's Fellowship, which still functions as a strong branch of the church.

Present officers are: Mrs. J. Sumption, Mrs. Hal Christanson, Mrs. Austin Corzett and Mrs. Stanley Reeser.

The Berean Bible Class, organized in 1922, has been a helpful organization in furthering church activities.

Singing in the first church was unaccompanied and a chorister, or leader was appointed. Edgar R. Nims was the first chorister and Nellie Nims was the first organist. In 1895, Miss Ella Richards, of Sterling, directed the choir. Other directors included S.D. D. Ousterhout, J.W. Johnstone, Prof. James B. Wallace and A.A. Woodyatt. The present director is Mrs. Mabel Peterson.

In 1917, Miss Ruth Limerick was pianist and later Miss Ruth Downey.

Rev. S.D. Belt, the first pastor, served from December 26, 1875-1880; Rufus Athorp, Mrs. Libbey and W. Cone served from 1881 to 1886. A total of fourteen ministers served here from 1887 to April 1929. J.F. Corpe, Omar J. Flugum, LeRoy N. Fielding, J.B. Clyde, B.F. Hern, Russell L. Fate and Dean Chasteen labored here from July 1, 1929 to June 1966. Since July 1966, the church continued to work under the leadership of Rev. Donald Proctor.

The church has not lived for itself alone but has provided, prepared and sent forth young people, together with money, into the extended service of Christian activity. The history of the past, inspires and challenges us to still greater development in the future.



First Congregational Church

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

Writing the history of a church is like trying to hit a moving target. It never stands still or stops moving long enough for you to record its progress really up to date. The First Southern Baptist Church of Rock Falls is no exception. First Southern can only claim 16 years out of the 100 years of Rock Falls' history, but it looks forward to many years of meaningful service in the Rock Falls community.

The Southern Baptist Church had its beginning in the hearts of Baptist people who moved into Rock Falls and found that there was no Southern Baptist Church. They were surprised and disappointed. A small group began to meet during the early part of 1951 for prayer meetings in the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Ford who at that time lived on Shore Acres Drive. When they started to talk about a church in Rock Falls, they were told that, "There has never been a Missionary Baptist Church here". This did not quench their desire to have a church of their own faith. The closest Southern Baptist Church at the time was at Peoria.

Early in May of 1951, a letter was written to a pastor in Harvey, Illinois, Rev. Earl Finney, who was known by the people here. His advice in the matter of getting a church started was sought. Rev. Finney contacted Rev. A.G. Rednour, pioneer missionary for the Chicago area. In a short time, Rev. Finney and Rev. Rednour visited the Rock Falls area and did some survey work. They decided that a church indeed was needed and possible in this area.

On May 24, 1951 at 7:30 p.m., the First Southern Baptist Church of Rock Falls was organized in the Trager Hall with 15 charter members. Before the charter was closed, 2 others came into the fellowship to make a total of 17 charter members. Representatives of the Illinois Baptist State Association were present including the State Secretary at that time, Dr. Noel M. Taylor.

The church then moved its meeting place to the Odd Fellows Hall in Sterling where they continued to meet until September of 1951. The first meeting of the church in Sterling was attended by

26 interested people. Though the group met in Sterling, they continued to make plans for their church to be built in Rock Falls.

On June 10, 1951, the church called her first pastor, Rev. Troy Butler who served as pastor until December of that year.

On July 20, 1951, two large lots were purchased at the corner of 9th Avenue and West 12th Street. This was to become the home of the church. The purchase of this property was made possible in part by a gift from the Illinois Baptist State Association, but more important, by the sacrificial gifts of the small membership of the church, with no Southern Baptist work to the north at all and a very small amount of work in the Chicago area. As it turned out, the First Southern Baptist church was the trunk from which all of the work in Sterling and Rock Falls area was to begin.

In September of 1951, a tent was placed on the lots at 902 West 12th Street for a meeting place and the first unit was started on the building. In November of 1951, the church began to meet in the not yet completed building. As one member recalls from these early days, "We had a small stove in the one room. We all sat around the stove and the preacher stood by it and preached. You could usually tell if there was a fire in the stove, by going up and putting your hand on it."

On July 2, 1952, Rev. William E. Pratt came as pastor of the church and finished the building of the church. He remained with the work until June 9, 1954. During this time the church had a good deal of increase and growth.

On January 23, 1955, the church called Rev. Dee T. Speers as pastor. Rev. Speers was to lead the church on June 27, 1956 to begin plans to enlarge the building and add educational space. This work was done before June of 1957 and remains as the basic plant of the church at this time. Rev. Speers continued as pastor until July 7, 1960.

On October 15, 1960, Rev. James Crawford became the pastor and served in a fine manner until May 23, 1962.

On October 8, 1962, Rev. Ottis Meadows became the pastor and he served faithfully until July 6, 1966.

The present pastor, Rev. Thomas B. Reiff was called as pastor on October 19, 1966. The pastor and his family reside in the church's parsonage at 302 12th Avenue.

Nine charter members remain in the church at this time. They are: Mr. and Mrs. James Ford, Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Miller, Mrs. Lova Wyatt, Mrs. Lonette McKnight and Mr. Robert Miller.

The church has two ordained deacons to work with the church and the pastor. They are Mr. James Ford and Mr. Claude Miller. The membership at the present time is about 125 with an average attendance in the worship of the church at about 65.

Throughout its history, the church has been missionary. It has sponsored a mission in Clinton, Iowa; Latin American Mission in Sterling, and for nearly a year, the Emerson Baptist Chapel at Emerson.

We are proud to be a part of the Rock Falls Community. We rejoice in the years of past history, but more we look into the future of Rock Falls and pray that we can have a part in making it a better community to live, work and worship in.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

The Rock Falls Assembly of God Church is one of approximately 10,000 Assemblies of God churches in the United States. It had a very humble beginning on July 3, 1949, starting with about six families and meeting in the home of the founder, Rev. Harry W. Lutz, who is its pastor at the present time. Rev. Lutz came to Rock Falls in June 1946, and after pastoring an independent church in Rock Falls for three years, organized the Assembly of God Church. From July 10, 1949 until December 1951, the group met in Trager Hall above Daggett's Drug Store. Ground was broken for its first new building at the corner of 10th Avenue and W. 23th St. in August 1950. A white concrete block building was erected with the major part of the construction being done by the pastor and congregation. The original church board at this time consisted of Robert Speakman, John Knapp, Nicholas Miller and B.W. Edwards, with pastor Lutz as chairman.

The church was duly organized as a non-profit corporation, receiving its charter and corporation license from the State of Illinois in 1949. All its property is in the name of the official board and is owned jointly by the board and the congregation.

In August of 1961, ground was broken for an addition to the original building on 10th Avenue.

Plans for the added structure included 13 classrooms, two auditoriums, offices, washrooms, kitchen, nursery, evangelist's apartment and a roomy foyer. The proposed cost was to be \$90,000, but with donated help, the cost was a little over half that amount. Another piece of property was purchased in December 1960, on the southeast corner of 10th Avenue and W. 12th Street for a parking area.

Most of the original charter members are still with the church today. The present board members are: Robert Speakman, secretary; Clifford Gross, treasurer; Merrill Kidder, Earl Cobble and the pastor, H.W. Lutz, chairman.

The pastor and Mrs. Lutz live in their own home which he built adjacent to the church edifice.

The local church has an active missionary program, giving partial support to six foreign and two home missionaries. It has a Women's Missionary Council which contributes to the material needs of the missionaries.

The young people of the church are organized into the "Christ's Ambassadors", conducting their own services each Sunday evening. They also participate in the church orchestra and choir, and in attending gospel meetings held at the Whiteside County jail in Morrison. Several of the local young people of the church have entered the ministry.

The Assemblies of God accept the Holy Scriptures as the inspired, infallible Word of God. Its tenet of faith includes four cardinal doctrines; (1) Salvation through faith and personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior; (2) the Baptism with the Holy Spirit according to the pattern in Acts 2; (3) Divine Healing through the atonement (Isa. 53:4; Matt. 8:16, 17; James 5:13, 14; and (4) the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

With industrial expansion in the community, a rapid extension of Rock Falls (especially south of Route 30 and west of Route 88), it became necessary to build the new Dillon Elementary School in that area. Through a survey of needs through the Rock River Presbytery, attention was turned to Rock Falls and its needs. Student ministers, Rev. David B. Maxton, and other interested people, stimulated an interest in having a Daily Vacation Bible School during August of 1953. Permission was granted to use four rooms in Dillon School.

Church services were also held in Dillon School until a manse was erected on the property that Mr. Paul Dillon donated for this purpose. Student ministers, members of the First Presbyterian Church of Sterling, and people of this Rock Falls community worked together to further the Kingdom of God.

In 1955, the Community Presbyterian Church was organized and Dr. Joseph Van Roekel was called to be the first pastor. Services were held in the basement of the manse, until the present church building was constructed.

Dedicatory services for the new church building were held in 1956 with a large number of people attending. Rev. David B. Maxton gave the dedicatory sermon.

The church continued to grow in each department of its organization. A Woman's Association was formed, which helped to carry out the work and purpose of the church. Classes in Sunday School were held regularly for children from three years of age on up. An adult Bible Class convened weekly.

The future of the church was bright until International Harvester Co., relocated, and with the relocation moved a large part of the congregation. Several of the church families moved out of state at this time, also.

Dr. Christos Vais was called to replace Dr. Van Roekel. There was renewed hope and some growth was shown, but illness forced Dr. Vais to resign.

A supply minister and student pastors conducted services for some time. The church seemed destined to close its doors. Serious thought was given to selling the property, but because of the untiring work of Rev. Kenneth Mortonson, of the Sterling Presbyterian Church and those remaining in the now nearly depleted congregation, the church's doors were kept open.

In 1963 the Rev. James Crangle was called. With the continuing help of Rev. K. Mortonson and others from the Sterling Church,

there was a growth in the Rock Falls church. A new purpose was discovered and this purpose was perpetuated by the handicapped involved.

The Tenth Anniversary of the church was celebrated in 1965, when the former ministers returned, having a part in the services. The Rev. David B. Maxton, D.D., of Granite City, Illinois gave the sermon in the afternoon.

One of the most impressive and obvious aspects of the Community Church is the church's outreach to the handicapped. What started out to be a church program, developed into Self-Help Enterprises--a workshop for the handicapped. The growth of the shop was so great that its operation was turned over to that of the community.

With Jan Player, Pat Griffith, and Jeannie Hay, a home for retarded men was established. The purpose of the home is to offer opportunities to the residents of Dixon State School to live and work apart from the institution. The home's supervision is now the responsibility of Sterling-Rock Falls Council of Churches and is named "The Council House."

Present day officers of the Community Presbyterian Church consist of the following board of Elders: Harry Hubbard, Clerk of Session; Richard Gillette; C.R. Manning; Walter Wolfe; Mrs. Harold Sarnes and Harry Dixon. Miss Joan Eshelman is the church organist.

The church serves the community in many ways; offering programs to the youth of the area - swimming, camping, crafts, field trips, and other like events. The counsel of the church is available to any who are in need. All of this is offered on a non-denominational basis.

The Rock Falls Community Presbyterian Church has worked in many areas during the past twelve years. However, the work that has been done and must be continued, would be of little value if it were not for the sole purpose of witnessing to the fact that Christ died for man's sin and that life can only be complete in Jesus Christ, the risen Savior.



Community Presbyterian Church

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

The local Rock Falls Church of the Nazarene had its beginning in May of 1957. Rev. Willard Hollis, who now is a pastor at Ottawa, Illinois, along with a few people with a vision of scriptural holiness, feeling the necessity of this work in Rock Falls, organized the church. They began worship in a small chapel on Eleventh Avenue, in a growing area of Rock Falls.

Rev. Roy Nickels came as pastor in 1960, and with tremendous sacrifice, was successful in leading the congregation in the erection of an adequate church building.

The present pastor is Rev. Gale L. Goode, who came in 1964. At the present time, it records a membership of 73 people, a Sunday School enrollment of 295, and an average yearly attendance of over 100 in the Sunday School and morning worship service.

Its lay leadership is provided by Mr. Orval Sliger, Sunday School Superintendent, Mrs. Avis Blankenship, Young People's Society President and Mrs. Doris Goode, World Missionary Society President.

This local church is a part of the General Church of the Nazarene, with world headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Church of the Nazarene is Wesleyan in doctrine, with a representative type of government, preaching the Word of God without apology.



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MESSIAH LUTHERAN MISSION

The good people of Messiah Lutheran Congregation at Sterling, Illinois, affiliated with the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, had long dreamed of establishing a subsidiary church in Rock Falls. Accordingly, a small group of approximately 85 separated themselves from the mother church to form a nucleus of men on a mission to establish a Mission Church. This group met for a time at East Coloma School on the corner of Dixon Ave. and McNeil Road. It was served directly by the Rev. Eldor Mueller, pastor of the home church at Sterling. Under the leadership of Pastor Mueller, Architects Seehausen and Munz of Rock Falls and Rockford, were engaged to sketch preliminary plans for the first stage of a progressive and on-going church.

The architects drew up a plan based on an equilateral triangle basis, which, in the future, can be enlarged toward the south. This plan was accepted by the joint members of Messiah at Sterling, and the Mission at Rock Falls, with construction starting immediately.

In the meantime, the Rev. Robert Jahn was called as an assistant pastor and was installed at the Mission on June 17, 1962.

Under the combined efforts of the two pastors, the congregation grew to 182 communicants, 294 souls.

On January 6, 1963, the Mission Congregation entered its new church home, situated on 5 acres of land at the corner of Dixon Ave. and Martin Road.

The congregation is currently served by the Rev. Edwin F. Schlade of 1311 Franklin Ct., Rock Falls, Illinois.

MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH

The Yeowardville Baptist Church started as a mission of the Como Baptist Church in August 1959. It began with a Vacation Bible School and Revival. Services were held in a tent on the Steve Peck property.

Rev. Aldridge as a mission pastor, began his duties August 19, 1959.

In November 1959, the mission moved into a house owned by Mrs. Mary McCombs. This building was soon outgrown and property was bought on Spruce St. from Jessie Stanfield.

The first services were held in the Spruce St. building on October 2, 1960, with 52 charter members.

During the pastorate of Rev. Aldridge, property was bought at the corner of Walter and Walnut Streets for future building. Rev. Aldridge left in August 1962 to attend Clarke College in Newton, Mississippi. Rev. Kenneth Sears served as interim pastor until January 1963. Rev. Wilbur Beadle served the church until January 1964.

In February 1964, Rev. Aldridge returned to serve the church.

The church voted to begin construction of a new building on the property at Walnut and Walter Streets, with ground breaking services held on August 9, 1964. The building committee was Bob Doyle, Ted Aldridge, Alvin Lewellen and Joe Stanfield. Harold Mohrman served as construction foreman with members of the congregation donating labor. As the result of wonderful cooperation and long hours of hard work, first services were held in the new church on Thanksgiving Day, 1964.

The church voted to change the name from Yeowardville Baptist Church to Maranatha Baptist Church in Yeowardville. This was done to give the church a Biblical name.

In March 1966, construction was begun on a home for their pastor. The home is constructed of brick to match the church. As a result of all the donated labor by members, construction costs have been kept to about half the valuation of the church property.

Maranatha Baptist Church membership is 218 with Sunday School enrollment of 170 and a Training union enrollment of 140.

THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Following the frontier, and being basically a layman's movement, it was to be expected that a Christian Church would be organized in the new city of Rock Falls. So it was that in the year 1897, a church was begun by organizing church school classes in the home of Mr. Elon Babcock. On November 11, 1897, a church, consisting of 31 persons and representing 17 families and called "The First Church of Christ (Disciples)", was organized in the home of Mr. Babcock. Work had already been started on a building erected on a lot donated by Mr. A. L. Merrill. This building was

finished quickly and was dedicated on December 19, 1897. The dedicatory service was conducted by Rev. J. H. Harden, President of Eureka College.

The following persons were those who constituted the charter members of the church (as accurately as the writing of seventy years ago can be deciphered): Brothers Charles Smith, A. E. Babcock, Henry L. Shiffer, M. T. Mouck, Elisha Wolford, Elon G. Babcock, Samuel Lowry, Charles Sumner and Will Adair; Sisters M. T. Mouck, Wm. Waugh, H. L. Shiffer, Emily Babcock, Mary Smith, James Crichton, Mary G. Babcock, Jennie Lowry, Alice Wolford, Laura Fry, Genevieve A. Pearl (Smith), Nellie Pearl, Katie Sherman, Mary Norris, Anna Shiffer, Charles Sumners, Ethel Mouck, Dellie Shiffer, Carrie Shiffer, Mollie Baley, Charles Bert and Jennie Craughan.

Equipment for this first church building came from many sources, some items being donated and some being purchased. The first communion service was given by the Sterling Christian Church and was used until 1910 when individual cups were used to replace the common chalice.

Help for the new church was given in many ways by the Sterling Church. Ministers from Sterling held worship services regularly, and held evangelistic meetings. Other churches in the area assisted and their ministers held meetings which resulted in the Rock Falls Church growing.

In May of 1900, five families of the church moved to Canada and their going threatened to spell the end of the new church. But these were hardy people and they continued on in spite of their reduced membership. Recently contact has been made with the last surviving member of the Elon G. Babcock family, in whose home the church was organized and she, Miss Mattie Babcock, is very much interested in hearing about the progress of the church.

The church was reorganized after the exodus of the families to Canada, with the help of the District Board and a series of meetings held by Rev. Harold E. Monser, which resulted in 34 additions to the church. Rev. W. A. Green was the first regular minister, beginning his work on April 24, 1904 and ending it on November 1, 1905. Prior to this time, preaching had been done by the ministers of the First Christian Church, Sterling.

As the church grew, it became necessary to enlarge the building. A lot was purchased at the back of the building, a basement installed and the church building moved back upon it. Most of the labor on this work was done by the men of the church. The building was enlarged and dedicated on May 13, 1913.

Rev. Harry E. Shiffer began a longtime ministry on February 20, 1920. He resigned in August 1958, but continued on until Rev. Richard Dawson was called on January 1, 1959.

During Rev. Shiffer's ministry, two disastrous fire were suffered by the church. The first occurred in 1932, badly damaging the building, but it was restored and services were renewed. On December 18, 1950, fire destroyed the building completely. During both these periods of time, the church met for services in Merrill School. Good fellowship has been experienced by the church and the school, for during a period of time when Merrill School needed more space, the school classes were held in the church.

Another building program was started and on November 23, 1951, the present building was dedicated with Rev. C. C. Carpenter of Peoria in charge of the service. The mortgage on this building was paid off on June 30, 1956 and the mortgage was burned on November 4, 1956 at a special service.



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Since this time, a number of memorial gifts have been made to the church which have been used to add equipment to the church, such as audio-visual equipment, office equipment, chancel furnishing, pictures, etc. A spire has been added to the church roof, making the brick colonial-type church more complete.

Under Rev. Dawson, a Driscoll Evangelistic Campaign was conducted and 127 new members were added. At this time, Rev. Shiffer was made Minister-Emeritus and continues in this capacity today.

Needing more space for the church school classes, a property to the south of the church was purchased in February 1960, and after remodeling the building, it was dedicated in June 1961 as "The First Christian Church Annex." At present, this is the location of the youth department of the church. The city of Rock Falls vacated the street between the two church properties and deeded it to the church. This has been made into a parking lot.

The church was first incorporated in 1900. In 1960, new incorporation papers were filed with the name of the church being changed

from "The Church of Christ (Disciples)" to "The First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)." The church is affiliated with the Illinois Disciples of Christ, The International Convention of Christian Churches and Unified Promotion. The church operates under a constitution which was accepted by the church in February 1962.

Following the resignation of Rev. Dawson to accept a charge in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Rev. Donald C. Ward came to the church as its pastor and continues at the present in that capacity.

Seventy years old this Centennial Year, The First Christian Church continues in its tradition of freedom and Christian tradition, and will continue to serve the community of Rock Falls.

A list of the ministers who have served this church is as follows: Silas Jones (Sterling), 1898-1901; William E. Spicer (Sterling), 1901-03; W.A. Green, 1904-05; Roy A. Stauffer, 1906-07; C.F. Ladd, 1907-09; J.W. Neslund, 1909-09; Roy A. Miller, 1911-15; Thorp, 1915-16; Reins, 1916-16; Paul M. Cook, 1917-19; Harry E. Shiffer, 1920-58; C. Richard Dawson, 1959-62; Donald C. Ward, 1962- .

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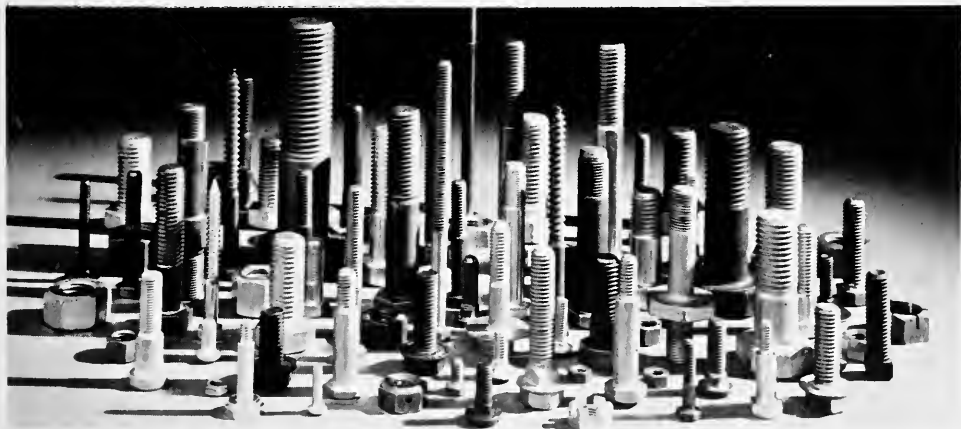
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